

# THE GATEWAY

volume C number 29 ♦ the official student newspaper at the university of alberta ♦ www.thegatewayonline.ca ♦ thursday, january 21, 2010



PETE YEE

**STEPUP** Fentiman must now fight to reduce tuition increases — one of the biggest challenges facing students this year.

## Fentiman assumes presidential vacancy

JONATHAN TAVES  
Deputy News Editor

In the early morning of January 15, Students' Council chose to appoint Vice President (Operations and Finance) Zach Fentiman to fill the vacant position of Students' Union President.

The appointment came after a two-and-a-half-hour-long *in camera* session only attended by councillors regarding the confidentiality agreement signed between the Executive Committee and former president Kory Mathewson.

Mathewson cited "personal reasons" for his resignation on January 11, and the agreement has prevented him and current vice presidents from elaborating on why he wasn't able to fulfill his obligations.

Councillors are prohibited from discussing what was said *in camera*.

After resuming normal proceedings following a recess, Council decided to use a secret ballot by councillors to choose the next president.

Fentiman and Arts councillor Jon Mastel were the two people that accepted nominations from fellow Council members.

Candidates spoke briefly about their motives, fielding questions from councillors before the ballots were cast.

21 first-place votes were cast in favour of Fentiman, who will be president for the remainder of the term, until April 30, 2010, when the winner of March's general election will take over the position. Mastel earned six first-place votes.

"It's hard to say immediately how I feel," he said at 1 a.m. after the seven-

hour meeting. "But I do appreciate the faith that Council has placed in me, and therefore the faith students have placed in me."

Looking ahead, Fentiman sees the largest obstacle ahead of the SU, and students in general, to be the market modifiers that may increase tuition drastically in some faculties, or the user fees that could fall on everyone.

"The challenge is going to be launching a campaign in the coming weeks to inform and educate the student population as to what's going on, [and] who is affected by what," he said.

After naming the new president, Council then voted to create a selection committee to put forward nominees to fulfill the newly vacant office of the Vice President (Operations and Finance).

The deadline for applicants for the position is Friday, January 22 at 4 p.m. Applicants will be shortlisted and interviewed before the five-member committee, which includes Fentiman, makes its recommendations to Council on January 26.

Fentiman recognized the concern of undemocratic practice that some students might raise with Council appointing both a new president and vice president, rather than holding by-elections.

"Council found that the cons of holding a by-election severely outweigh the pros — things like the cost, confusing the electorate, the timeline," Fentiman said.

PLEASE SEE **FENTIMAN** ♦ PAGE 3

## Political Science professors condemn prorogation, call for electoral reform

### Experts band together to criticize undemocratic nature of Canadian system

BRENDAN MUNRO  
News Writer

Across the country, a growing number of voices are condemning Stephen Harper's decision to prorogue Parliament.

Recently, a group of 132 political science experts added their voices, issuing a collective statement condemning the prorogation and highlighting it as an example of the significant democratic deficit they argue exists in Canada. The statement calls upon Canadians to rethink the current electoral system, saying it can produce governments which don't represent the will of the electorate and aren't highly accountable to its citizens.

Laurie Adkin, an associate professor of Political Science at the University of Alberta, and one of the signatories of statement, commented on the need to update Canada's antiquated system of

representation.

"The current system consistently misrepresents voters. Canada needs something like a constitutional assembly, or a deliberative process incorporating people from the many walks of life in our country to determine what type of system of representation would be best for Canada," she said.

In recent years, alternative types of representation at the provincial level have occurred in British Columbia and Ontario. These referendums were defeated, but the results were very telling. In Ontario in 2007, 39 per cent of voters voted in favour of the reforms, which equated to only five of the 107 ridings being in favour.

"Federal electoral reform is a complicated issue and people often tend to stick with what they know," Adkin said. "However, our current electoral system favours two main parties that squeeze out smaller parties. This

results in the under-representation of ethnic minorities, women, and other groups. Proportional representation more effectively represents these voices by offering them more tools, resources, and increased visibility."

In essence, proportional representation allocates representatives to government based on the number of votes a party receives across all ridings. Small parties which, for example, win five per cent of the popular vote, would be entitled to five per cent of the seats in Parliament.

Under the current system, it would be rare to see a party with five per cent of the popular vote have any representatives at all.

It has been long argued by the advocates of PR that this form of electoral system inherently leads to more fair and democratic governments. Critics, however, have maintained that this structure would result in



CLAUDINE CHAMPION

**TIME FOR CHANGE** Adkin and her colleagues are pushing for electoral reform.

fractured and ineffective coalition governments.

"If we had a PR system coalition in Canada, we wouldn't have this type of situation [with prorogation].

Coalitions would look much different because of their composition, with power shifting towards more representative parties," Adkin argued.

PLEASE SEE **REFORM** ♦ PAGE 3

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## Behemoth plays

And you can find out when, where, how much, and just how sober the Polish death metal band will be.

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## Vehement plays

The Gateway's sports staff forcefully argue why any of the remaining four NFL teams could win the Superbowl.

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## THE GATEWAY

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## colophon

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## GSA explores creation of summer U-Pass

New passes would enable graduate students to access cheap public transit while their summer school schedules bring them to and from campus

MAGGIE EDMONDS  
News Writer

The Graduate Students' Association at the University of Alberta is seeking to expand the successful U-Pass project to include the spring and summer terms for graduate students.

Graduate programs often require students to be on campus during the summer months to continue their research and studies. The suggestion of extending the U-Pass for graduate students to include the spring and summer terms was a natural concept, and brought forth through the GSA.

"Graduate students are generally here over the summer, so this is something that made sense for their constituents," Nick Dehod, vice president of student life said.

The proposal has undergone comprehensive development. According to Dehod, "The GSA executives worked on this through the summer, and then after working with the Edmonton Transit Service, they took it to the Transportation Public Works Committee [last] week." The GSA will now present the changes as part of a referendum later in the year. If passed, the extension of the U-Pass could come into effect for graduate students as early as May 2011.

The fees for the graduate spring/summer U-Pass are expected to be consistent with undergraduate fees for a one-term U-Pass.



SAM BROOKS

**NOT-SO-FREE PASS** Dehod has helped nurture the U-Pass into its second term.

"From my understanding, the graduate student spring/summer U-Pass would be the same cost as a fall term U-Pass or a winter-term U-Pass," Dehod explained.

"Graduate students aren't charged fees for their spring/summer semester, so from my understanding they would be paying for eight months [of U-Pass use] in January."

If the extension to include the spring and summer terms for graduate students is successful, there is the possibility future undergraduate students will have this option as well.

Although most undergraduate

students aren't in class during the summer, it may be useful for other activities. Second-year undergraduate student Alison Shillington said, "It would probably be good for summer festivals, and then you wouldn't have to park."

"The GSA used a survey [to determine whether this was of interest to graduate students] and consulted with their students," Dehod said.

A similar method would most likely be used to determine if there is the possibility of extending the spring/summer U-Pass to undergraduate students.

## from the archives

**"Reduced budget slows expansion"**

January 23, 1968

Government financing shortages are going to cut into U of A expansion plans.

Vice-president for finance and administration Dr. D. G. Tyndall said "We will have to cut back with the least harmful impact on our program."

He estimated that of the \$35,460,000 needed by the university this year only \$25,000,000 will be provided by the government.

Only \$43,000,000 is to be divided among the three Alberta universities for 1968-69 by the Universities Commission as opposed to \$47,000,000 last year.

The U of A's allotment for 1967-68 was \$26,000,000 and the U of C's was 16,400,000.

The combined five-year estimates for the U of A and the U of C are \$390,000,000. The government can provide only \$175,000,000 for the three universities, including the University of Lethbridge.

*From the Archives is a regular feature that explores the storied history of the Gateway, the University of Alberta's student newspaper since 1910. To read the full story and to explore our entire archive, check out [thegatewayonline.ca/archives](http://thegatewayonline.ca/archives).*

## STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by  
Robert Frigon and Sam Brooks

As you may be aware, this week is National Non-Smoking Week.

## Should the U of A follow other institutions and ban smoking completely?

**Mike Clarkson**  
Education III**Lindsay Blake**  
Phys Ed I**Shelby Stollery**  
Phys Ed III**Henry Tso**  
Kinesiology III

No, I don't think they should [...]. I think that it has been ingrained in society not to smoke. I still think there are people that choose to do it. I think [smokers] have rights, too — they're already crammed into small areas around the campus. It doesn't really bother me that bad. They are outside. Good enough.

Yes, because [smoking is] rude to everyone else who doesn't smoke — to breathe in their smoke, it grosses me out. I hate Vegas for that very reason.

I don't know if it needs to necessarily be banned. I liked what they're doing as far as the entranceways, you have to have the 15 metres or whatever away. That's always really gross. [Walking through the smoke?] Yeah, I'm not a fan of that, but otherwise, I don't think it's that big of a deal.

Yes, I think they should. It's annoying when you're walking through campus and then there are just a bunch of people smoking. I also saw some lady smoking by the bus stop and when the bus came, she threw it down, and she just walked onto the bus. She didn't stamp it out or anything, she just walked onto the bus. That was kind of annoying.

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# Business week hosts 'Apprentice-style' challenges for student competition

JONATHAN TAVES  
Deputy News Editor

Though they're not working for a billionaire real-estate mogul right now, that may be the eventual goal for teams of business students participating in Business Students Association Apprentice Challenge.

The event is a large part of Business Week 2010, which also includes bar nights and a gala. The winning team will be awarded \$1,600.

No teams are "fired," but instead are ranked based on the points they earn for completing their tasks.

"We try to bring education outside the classroom as well. A lot of the activities of Business Week have been about giving them practical experience," said Thomson Leung, BSA president.

That "practical experience" includes pantless Chinese fire drills at red lights, and bungee jumping holding team signs as part of a photo scavenger hunt.

The designer of the challenge, Steve Tchir, explained that the outrageous scenarios are designed to get students out of their comfort zones and participating.

"Most of the pictures are really logistically intensive," he said.

"It's making them push their own limits, and making them talk to people they normally wouldn't talk to [...]. The ultimate goal is really to make them realize that by talking to people, you can really make things happen."

Another aspect is a case competition, where teams have to come up with solutions to real-life scenarios.

"Usually it's a very open-ended problem; you have to be creative with it. Every group usually has a very different solution," said Ami



PETE YEE

**IT'S NOTHING PERSONAL** Six teams of three or four will try to complete tasks all week, including possibly getting a photo with an Oiler in a Flames jersey.

Price-Gagnon, a first-year business student and member of the "Wolf Pack" team.

The solutions' merits are then judged by an expert panel.

"We have a few industry judges that we get from the [Canadian Marketing Association], as well as a few faculty judges," explained Tiffany Chow, a Business Week organizer.

Other challenges, such as trading up to the best item from a paper clip, involve doing anything and everything you can, noted Price-Gagnon's teammate, Derek DeGroot.

"It's a combination of how smart you are and how ridiculous you are," he said. "We're basically abusing friendships and calling in every favour that we have."

## Council chooses successor

FENTIMAN ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

He noted that bylaws require a 21-day break before the vote, plus two voting days, and that the office would have remained vacant during that time.

The new president also defended the use of student money to pay for the legal fees accrued by drafting the confidential agreement for Mathewson.

"In order to respect an individual's privacy, and personal concerns as was stated in the resignation letter, ensuring that those are kept confidential is paramount. I do think that [paying legal fees] was justifiable," he said.

The SU hasn't received an invoice of the legal fees yet, but has committed

to make the totals public when they're known.

In regards to the information shared during the *in camera* session, Fentiman said he thought Councillors got all the information they needed to make an informed decision, and that the Executive Committee had disclosed everything.

Moving on from the Mathewson era, Fentiman noted how he feels he'll be able to effectively represent student interests until the end of the term.

"[Assuming the presidency] obviously wasn't something I was expecting to happen, but I'm excited moving forward, and I think that there's an opportunity for us to make good plays."



PETE YEE

**NEW MAN AT THE TOP** Fentiman's presidency will end on April 30, 2010.

## Proportional representation recommended by experts

REFORM ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The shift to proportional representation has already occurred in other countries whose governments were modelled after the British Parliamentary system, most notably in Australia and New Zealand.

The process of electoral reform in Canada is supported by independent groups such as Fair Vote Canada.

While it would likely require a great deal of grassroots support before electoral reform became a referendum issue, one could envision it becoming a major election issue supported by the smaller Canadian parties.

A request for comment was made to Tim Uppal's office, the Conservative MP for the Edmonton-Sherwood Park riding, but he did not respond as of press time.

The statement released by the political scientists calls upon Canadians to make electoral reform a priority, stressing the need to implement a "Canadian version of a more proportional and fair voting system within the next five years."

The statement in its entirety is available online at [fairvote.ca/en/fvc-news/132-political-scientists-call-for-action-on-democratic-deficit](http://fairvote.ca/en/fvc-news/132-political-scientists-call-for-action-on-democratic-deficit).

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# Olympics displaces B.C. students

ANDREW BATES  
CUP Western Bureau Chief

KELOWNA (CUP) — It's not unheard of to crash on someone's couch after a party, but over 200 students and fraternity members at the University of British Columbia will need to find a couch for the whole month of February thanks to the biggest party in Vancouver this year: the 2010 Winter Olympic Games.

Six of seven houses at the school's Fraternity Village will be renting out to an Olympic venue security group, according to Glen Bury, strata chair for the Village.

"We anticipated that there were opportunities with the Olympics coming to Vancouver that we could potentially use to improve the fraternity, either through the physical facility or through extra funding for our chapter programming," Azim Wazeer, president of the UBC chapter of the Phi Delta Theta fraternity said. "We've been thinking about this for two to three years."

Fraternity Village — a stone's throw away from UBC's Thunderbird Arena, one of the venues for the Games — is a 250-unit development that was designed to move fraternities onto the UBC campus, according to UBC Properties Trust.

But the move has raised questions.

"Who had the authority to make that decision? With the money they're getting, what are they planning to do with that money?" asked Martha Lewis, executive director of Vancouver's Tenant Resource and Advisory Centre. "These students, I hope, are being very well compensated. I hope they're really making it worth their while, if it's at



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: ANDREW BATES

**COUCH SURFER** Some B.C. fratboys could find themselves bedless in February.

their expense. I hope the fraternities are being decent and compensating these students for the upheaval."

According to Wazeer, some fraternities students will get incentive packages. "Everybody has structured theirs differently," Wazeer said.

"We have provided individual benefits for members living within the house, and they also understand that they are net beneficiaries also as members of the chapter."

Members of the B.C. chapter of Phi Delta Theta voted on the proposal, and then residents of the house itself got to vote, Wazeer said. "We decided that we needed to have an absolute majority, so we needed at least two-thirds in favour of the proposal to go forward, and we achieved that two-thirds."

Not all students were happy, but Wazeer said the fraternity felt satisfied with their democratic process. "Clearly not everybody is going to be on board with every single plan," he said. "As far as the members who weren't completely

on board, they were still satisfied with the fact that they were being compensated by the individual benefits."

The Phi Gamma Delta fraternity opted not to join the project, according to Wazeer, and will not be moving out in February. Several other fraternities declined to comment on the issue.

Financial opportunism during the Olympics can sometimes leave tenants in the cold, Lewis said.

"The concern was that a lot of people might be evicted so that the landlords can rent out at much higher [value]," she said, but noted that demand just hasn't arrived as anticipated, possibly because of a rise in Vancouver's vacancy rate.

Wazeer said that his fraternity had been working to find billets in the greater Vancouver area for members, and would compensate families that hosted members.

Beyond that, the market is fairly open, according to Lewis. "There's still vacancies in hotels, if they can afford the hotels," she said.

# Experts question true effect of popular 'detox' diets

LEN SMIRNOV  
The Fulcrum (University of Ottawa)

OTTAWA (CUP) — Grunting under the heavy weight of holiday pudding and New Year's resolutions, another swath of people are in the midst of cleansing their bodies for 2010. While detoxification diets and treatments spike in popularity at the beginning of the year, however, their effectiveness and safety still remain controversial.

Detox diets (also called cleansing diets) and treatments aim to remove toxins that build up in the body from bad foods and the environment. Toxins can be found in items such as pesticides, exhaust fumes, cooking utensils, and dental fillings, while symptoms of toxicity may include headaches, fatigue, and irritability.

"People should not drink from [soft drink] cans or use coated Teflon pans," cautioned Valerie Thornburg, manager of the Ottawa Wellness and Detox Clinic. "You should also always try to reduce the amount of acidic things you take in."

Cleansing regimens range from the moderate raw fruit-and-vegetable diet to the more extreme Master Cleanse — a water fast based on a mixed drink of lemon, maple syrup, and cayenne pepper. Detox proponents claim that the diets improve a person's general health and complexion as well as aid

in weight loss, but some dietitians are skeptical about these benefits.

"Severe restrictions help you feel that you got the crap out of your system, but it's not crap that you got out of your system — [you simply] feel lighter, especially after taking too much food," said Elizabeth Mansfield, a registered dietitian.

Health officials argue that special detoxification treatments are not necessary, since the body has natural channels to detoxify.

"We have organs in our body that detoxify naturally," Mansfield said. "Fasting and drinking mixes of herbs — none of these are doing anything for the body. There is no scientific proof that these work."

As an alternative to detoxification methods, Mansfield recommends watching the intake of food, particularly during the holidays when people are most prone to overeat.

"The real danger is the flip — all the overeating people are doing. It is more dangerous to overeat than under-eat," she said.

Mansfield further warned that some herbs used in the detox diets may be dangerous. She encouraged all people that are thinking of going on a detox diet that includes herbs to confirm with Health Canada's Natural Health Product Database that the supplement has a natural product number.

**"It's more dangerous to overeat than under-eat."**

**ELIZABETH MANSFIELD**  
REGISTERED DIETITIAN

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## Opening Pandora's box of escapism

SEEMS THE ARTFULLY CRAFTED LANDSCAPES AND creatures of James Cameron's fantasy planet Pandora have now propelled his new film *Avatar* on track to defeat his *Titanic* as the highest-grossing film of all time. But Cameron's creation is proving that it was crafted a little too artfully, as now certain fans are becoming depressed at the thought of never seeing such a "perfect planet" for themselves. In the real world, it seems, people can get just as blue as their avatars.

Coping has become so hard for some of the wistful — and some would say silly — alien perspectives that they have begun to form online communities and fill forums with whimsical wishes for a magical plane ticket to Pandora. But reading these forums, the potent mixture of illusion and reality needed to fall into such scary escapism becomes immediately apparent.

It's gotten so bad that some writers on the site *Avatar-forums.com* have gone so far as to create a forum titled "Ways To Cope With The Depression of The Dream of Pandora Being Intangible," to help the more severely afflicted *Avatar* fans, who compare leaving the theatre to "waking up in the real world," and talk about seeing the movie again, only to relive the same depression and hopelessness each time they see the credits roll.

But such a die-hard reaction to Cameron's film isn't entirely incomprehensible, and for reasons other than film reviewers are jumping on; though to be fair, his graphics, his budget, and his production time are all of epic and historical proportion, as are his sales. Cameron has struck a green chord with his audience, and by that I mean the lifestyle — not the dollar bill.

Despite all of the flash and profit of *Avatar*, it's ultimately pointless to refute the fact that in addition to being a work of visual art, the haven of Pandora also serves another, more political purpose for Cameron. His seemingly colourful, but ultimately black-and-white world of immoral miners and noble indigenous tribesmen builds a cleanly divided reality, in which to play out our own — and by that, I mean human — moral dilemma of what to do about our own planet.

Small wonder that in a time when so many of our citizens cry out for climate justice, that such an issue-charged film is finding both resonance and a paying audience. Or that the easily impressionable are casting themselves headlong into depression after getting just a quick fix of a world devoid of industrialization, made even more real by three-dimensional effects unseen before in this magnitude.

But the simplification of life has kept viewers glued to screens big and small since long before Cameron's new visual toys. Consumers are apparently struggling to put aside this pseudo-nostalgia, and "wake up" again in their real lives. It could almost go so far for some of the *Avatar* fans to be considered a form of brainwashing by Cameron — though obviously not intentional, of course. Still, the immersive aspects of the film are pretty much at the forefront of the advertising and publicity.

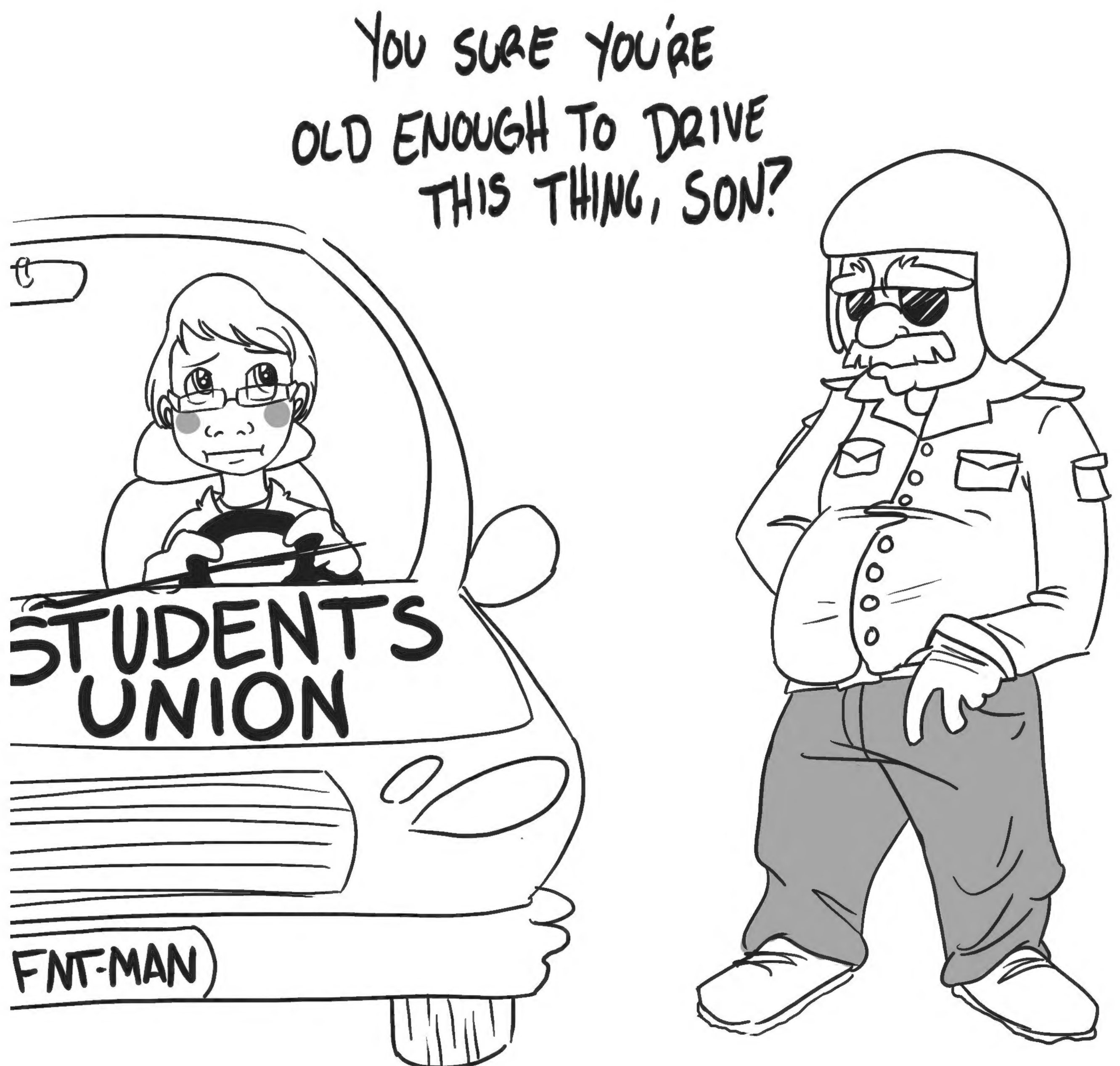
The question now remains, then, what other new depressions wait for us around the corner, once filmmakers other than Cameron realize the potent concoction created by mixing our deepest wants with the realism of three-dimensional glasses? From the descriptions on *Avatar-forum.com* — some of which sound more like drug addicts finding a way to cope without a three hour, \$12 fix to their cravings — the illusion has come as close as it ever has to reality.

SEAN STEELS  
Senior News Editor

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EVAN DAUM  
Blink and you'll miss him



FAYE CAMPBELL

## letters TO THE eds

### What the iconoclasts are thinking about Fentiman

I am appalled at the undemocratic decisions the Students' Council have made in regards to the former Student's Union President resigning. Such an important decision should have gone straight to a by-election, no matter the cost.

Fellow students, the SU just put a price tag on our democracy! The new dictator was appointed in complete privacy from the public or the press, so as to avoid our scrutiny. I hope U of A students now recognize the importance for democracy, and how, even in the first world, it is being slowly degraded by those with hidden agendas.

How is this any different then proroguing Parliament? The SU has prorogued our democracy until the next elections. To the Student's Union politicians, hold your heads in shame. You should all resign.

DILLON GARA  
Arts I

## from THE web

### What the techies are thinking about Fentiman

RE: Fentiman appointed to SU presidency, January 15

The only thing that's truly surprising about this is how quickly

the Wikipedia entry on the University of Alberta Students' Union was updated. It literally wasn't even minutes. Wow.

Congratulations, Mr. Fentiman. May you be worthy of many more Wikipedia pages in the future.

'SHOCKED STUDENT'  
Via Internet

### What everyone else is thinking about Fentiman

RE: Fentiman appointed to SU presidency, January 14

Who the hell is Zach Fentiman?

MIKE SMITH  
Via Internet

### A level-seven prorogue

RE: Harper's prorogue has us seeing red, January 15

The reason for the Harper government's sudden shutdown of Parliament is very much a panicked attempt to kill highly dangerous explorations into serious violations of the Geneva Conventions with respect to the handling of Afghan Prisoners of War termed "detainees." It is highly possible that those responsible and accountable for handing prisoners over to known torturers are now exposed to war crimes prosecution, for their serious breaches of the laws of war and proper treatment of detainees.

It is crucial that this whole area of participation in the U.S.-led war of terror be thoroughly examined and those accountable

from Harper to Hillier be made to answer. Canada has no proper business getting our hands bloody in the service of such diabolical imperialist schemes as those we kill and are killed for.

J.J.  
Via Internet

### Edumacation issues

RE: Canadian PhD programs get failing grade, January 15

The perceived value of higher-level degrees should not be, in my opinion, a reason to assume the certainty of future damage to Canada's economic and research output because of the lower number of graduating candidates. There are many people who don't have degrees who own businesses, employ communities, participate in civic issues, serve the less-advantaged, serving a far greater purpose and provide a larger benefit to our society (in my books).

Over the last 25 years of my lifetime, I've seen research touted as gospel, only to have the conclusions questioned or outright debunked a decade later. Maybe corporate Canada is not paying PhD's what they think they (or the conference board) deserve because, in fact, they don't actually produce the additional anticipated productivity.

I think it is more important to focus our attention and investments toward the almost 50 per cent of Canadians with literacy and essential skills challenges,

we all lose when they cannot fully participate.

B. WHITE  
Via Internet

### A few musings on wealth and hellness

RE: Referendum to decide fate of proposed health and wellness facility, January 14

First: They're going to use natural light because it's green while at the same time the University is covering the roof of HUB and adding lighting. Where's the net gain?

Second: Aren't a number of the functions listed already taken care of by the Students' Union Building? Don't we already have a climbing wall in the Butterdome? We certainly don't need more study space — even at the height of exams, there is still plenty of room in libraries, classrooms, SUB, and all across campus. With regards to space to pray, there are chaplain services (representing a wide range of faiths) and two Christian colleges on campus.

Perhaps it would be a better use of money to simply expand the fitness facility (which is shamefully small for an institution this size), improve and expand the offerings of food service in CAB (which is central on campus), and save students of the future yet another fee.

MIKE SMITH  
Via Internet

LETTERS ♦ CONTINUED ON PAGE 6





**Opinions are like... OPERA**  
(long, sometimes dull, inexplicably musical, and involving funny hats)

**GATEWAY OPINION:**  
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to be active citizens

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## THE BURLAP SACK

MP3 players may be infinitely more convenient than the bulky alternative. However, they are still hampered by a leftover convention from the days of disc media. The problem I have is with the aptly named “hidden tracks” that frequently appear on many albums, both old and new. Part of me wishes these tracks would figure out what’s good for them and just stay hidden.

Hidden tracks, if you’re not sure what I’m talking about, are usually small riffs or pseudo-songs that can be heard only if one waits through a minute or two of silence after the album’s final song has supposedly ended. It’s akin to putting a little bonus clip after the credits of movie for people who like to say “I can’t believe we waited 10 minutes for *that*.”

But there’s no consistency to it. Because of this convention, I frequently find myself realizing I’ve been listening to dead air for 30 seconds since the artist decided to end the album with random phone conversation. If I wanted to listen a boring muffled voice, I’d call my cousin and ask what it’s like to program software for a living.

And it’s even more frustrating for me when this hidden track is an actual legitimate song that I like. At least I could move on with my life if I knew that there was nothing good coming, but now I am faced with a dilemma. Do I fast forward through the silence? Do I suffer the indignity of actually listening to the tripe they programmed in? I obviously can’t just skip to the next song — that would be far too simple. So I’ve learned to listen through silence and pray that we’ll get to the next musical bit as soon as possible — you know, the *music*, the stuff I paid for in the first place.

To be fair, track division gets rid of the bad feelings, so I’m happy to see that some modern musicians are increasing track counts to account for this bonus material. Until this is adopted by all musicians, however, I’m giving the hidden track the Sack, if I can just find the damn thing.

LANCE MUDRYK

*The Burlap Sack is a semi-regular feature where a person or group who needs to be put in a sack and beaten is ridiculed in print. No sack beatings are actually administered.*

# Mixing Parliament would shake things up



ROBERT FRIGON

Earlier this week, 130 political sciences professors from Canada sent a petition to the federal government to be part of the debate for a reformed electoral process. I’ve been in favour of reform for many years, feeling that the current system leads to voter apathy, disproportionate power to rural areas, and unbalanced representation to Ontario and Quebec. But considering a reformed system where each vote counts? This will only lead to a system where people feel that their vote matters and will want to hit the polls. Considering voter turnout in the last few years, this can only be a good thing.

Under this system, a vote towards the party you support will ensure an increased percentage of representation. With this increase, smaller parties will receive more funding and get to play a part on the big stage. This isn’t even a possibility under the current system — the voices of smaller parties simply don’t get heard. This would also change the dynamics of Parliament, leaning away from majority to minority co-operation. But more changes are needed to craft a fully structured system.

So I’m calling for a mixed system — not one that’s just proportional

representation, but with single-member plurality as well.

This mixture will solve the system’s problems, as well as help with regional and personal issues. People need to have the opportunity to allow their regional issues to be heard by a representative. In consideration, if it was just a proportional representative, then government issues raised by small groups would never be heard. As well, MPs need to be responsible to their constituents. Each party could run their candidates across the country, and with it being an equal 50/50 split, then no one power could come to majority with merely popular vote or support at the regional level. A mixed-system government would ensure the best of both worlds.

## The tale of the Green Party speaks to how voter representation would help swell voter support.

Of course, any radical overhaul still needs to come with a few safety nets. We’d have to establish a minimum of three per cent total popular vote for a seat in the house. This would ensure that radical fringe groups don’t move onto the main stage. I’d also argue that MPs could only be on the electoral list for one term, whereupon they must be re-elected in a home riding — to ensure not just anyone can make it by

patronage appointments to the House of Commons and not be accountable to the people. I would maintain that the prime minister is the leader of the party with the largest number of elected officials. Some things are worth keeping.

The big issue, though, is that a mixed system would all but eliminate the problem of false majority in the current system. At the moment, a party can receive 30 per cent of the popular vote and still obtain a majority. This is a misrepresentation of voting blocs, and would all but disappear under a mixed system.

Need an illustration? The tale of the Green Party speaks to how voter representation would help swell voter support. In the last federal election, the Greens received 6.8 per cent of the national vote, yet they have no members of parliament in office. That means nearly one million votes meant essentially nothing to the structure of the federal government. And that’s the whole point here — each vote *should* matter. One million votes should not be for naught. A new system has been a long time coming to ensure that all voices are heard.

I believe these changes would lead to a more fair and equal assessment of power across Canada. It’d also give new life to an old game, and make strategy and political shuffling less important, but instead let the issues rise to the top. Reforming the electoral process into a mixed system would not only be the smartest solution, but the one that we need as we move into the next decade.

LETTERS ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

## Heavens forbid the Opinion section contains actual Opinions

RE: Mathewson’s response nothing but yellow, January 14

“When the Executive Committee made it clear that they weren’t willing to say anything further in public about the circumstances surrounding Mathewson resigning, it was time to move on. It’s irresponsible to — as Science Councillor Hansra did — spend six separate speaking turns trying to ask the Executive Committee leading questions designed to somehow trick them into revealing their personal opinions about the ex-president.”

I’m sorry, but your statement here lacks any kind of intelligence. To ask questions is what you would expect someone to do in a situation like this. The president of the SU left, the exec committee are being shadier than a fat

man’s ankles and the council members would like answers.

By the Gateway stating in their article that Science Councillor Hansra was asking leading questions designed to trick them makes your journalism seem more of a defense for Sarah Palin. I am sure the Exec committee can handle leading questions, the actual questions you should be asking is why the council members are concerned about the Exec committee and their role.

Maybe the Gateway should revert to some finer works by Andrew Marr or John Pilger in helping them understand the essence of journalistic writing and research. Good luck.

NIK PATEL  
Via Internet

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students’ Union Building, launched via paper aeroplane or mailed to

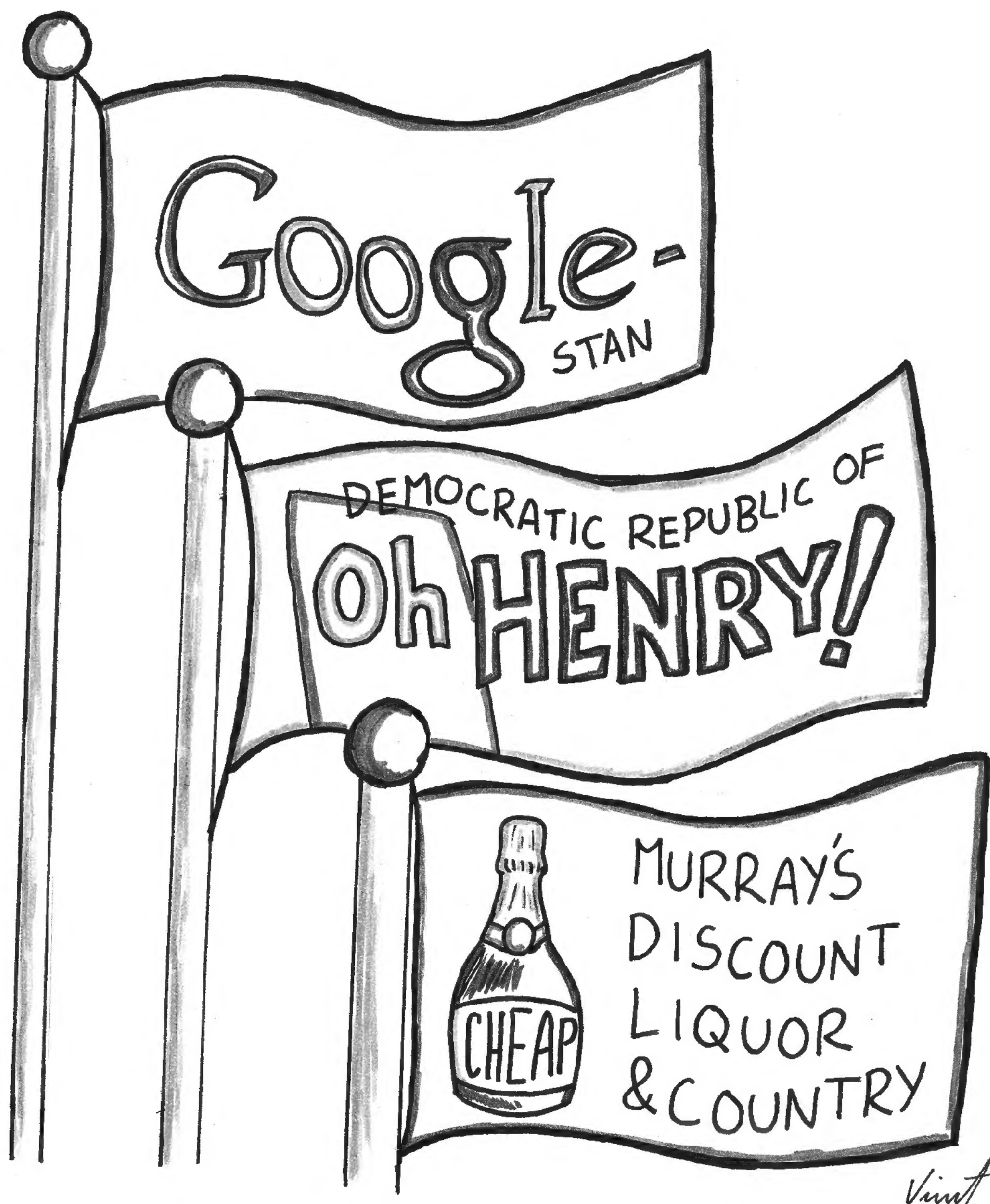
letters@gateway.ualberta.ca. Website comments might also occasionally be used, if and when we have approximately one actual letter sent in. Print media isn’t dead yet, guys.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online. We rarely do, but we reserve the right to.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author’s name, program, year of study and student identification number to be considered for publication.

Furthermore, e-mails featuring excessive amounts of exclamation marks, all-caps, large font sizes, and emoticons, are liable to be ridiculed mercilessly by members of the editorial staff.





**FLAG BASHING** Portrait of the United Nations, 2036, meeting to debate Googlestan's recent annexing of Oh-Henya

## It's not patriotic, it's just business



**TIM SCHNEIDER**

Last week, we had the privilege of watching the Olympic torch being carried through our campus. Close behind came the advertising — the vehicles plastered in Coca-Cola propaganda, the dancers, the cheap, commercialized patriotism in the form of flags that were handed out. We've become accustomed by now to the presence of advertising and of corporations in every aspect of our lives.

Elsewhere in the world last week, Google threatened to pull their search engine out of China, unless it's uncensored. This is in response to a series of cyber-attacks, originating within the country, on the Gmail accounts of Chinese human rights activists. Google has pledged to sit down and negotiate with China to try to reach a compromise. The initial response I had upon hearing this is that it sounds like Google is acting an awful lot like a country. This made me wonder: how long until countries become simply irrelevant and it is the corporations to which we are pledging our allegiance?

Seems our relationships with both our governments and corporations are starting to change — the once-clear lines are starting to blur. Publicly traded corporations now represent a better example of democracy than any country does (perhaps the only catch being that you have to be a shareholder, a customer, or an employee.) This is, in large part, because many companies have found it profitable to take strong ethical stances. Customers have demanded this of them and

they've responded in order to preserve their market share and to make their shareholders happy, coming to represent what we expect of our government in the process: a representative voice.

The power and importance of corporations has been strikingly evident during the recent economic recession. World governments have determined that some corporations, even if what they do seems unethical, are too big to fail. Why? Because these companies are providing citizens with a service vital to their way of life, either through their products or by providing employment. They're providing crucial services that the government is not, and so their existence must be upheld to the extent that taxpayer dollars are funding these corporations.

### Is it not out of the question for us to eventually identify with companies first and our country second?

While governments have long existed to provide services that corporations were unwilling to provide, now companies are taking on these endeavours as a matter of practice. Think of developments in toll roads, privatized electricity, or even telecommunications. NGOs are stepping in to fill the other aspects of government and the distribution of networked computing and a ubiquitous Internet has allowed a quicker response to tragedy and trying circumstances than governmental process allows.

And so now, we come to situations where large companies like Google are negotiating toe-to-toe with countries like China. As

their powers through international expansion allow them to take a stand against individual countries, they're now working with and against countries, but as peers, which is the unheralded situation that's the cause of so much concern. As consumers who identify as much with a brand as we do with our countries, is it not out of the question for us to eventually identify with companies first and our country second?

While our conception of nations continues to change, this matter is important to consider. As students emerging onto the world stage, we will be some of the first to consider these issues in a real-world context. As it stands, the government takes a portion of my income to provide services, some of which affect me, but many that affect others. Would I be better off investing that capital in a company that I know would be obliged to provide for me? From a financial standpoint, it makes sense.

Currently, we offer a lot of control to corporations. We hand over more of our information to private companies now than our governments have access to. Facebook, for example, with a membership of over 330 million members, has a digital population that overshadows the United States. Facebook has access to the most intimate details of their citizens, willingly provided, and far more information than even the Patriot Act could gain access to. Is the emergence of Facebookopia far off?

As companies gain more power and become more globally dominant, the balance and differences between them and countries will continue to blur and change. There's no need to worry though. As Telus might say, "Meet the future. It's friendly." Just sit back, relax, and invest in your companies wisely, for they will provide for you in turbulent times. Just don't act surprised if we one day pledge our allegiance to one nation under Google.

JOHNSON-SHOYAMA  
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# Operation Wealth Care: Side effects may occur



DAVID  
JOHNSTON

"My peeling skin and depression are probably just the tip of the iceberg, since my coworkers have been happily and uncaringly bandying about urban prescription legends involving rapid hair loss and arm discolouration and other such horrible things that maybe probably likely won't happen to me. But they've still started calling dibs on my stuff should I unexpectedly croak."

So I'm clinically depressed. "Why, David, you overwhelmingly positive person, you," my fictional readers are asking, "Why ever are you depressed? Have we done something to offend you?" That's kind of you to ask, fictional readers, but it's not your fault directly. No, I know exactly why I'm depressed at the moment — because the drugs I'm on have a little label saying "Warning: May cause depression, peeling skin, fictional voices in your head, and eventual homicidal rage." The last one hasn't kicked in just yet, but otherwise I think I'm pretty well par for the course. What's that, fictional readers? Really? Kill everyone? But I'm in the middle of writing a column! Wait until I'm finished, okay?

At any rate, you might have noticed that I'm tangentially discussing medical terminology, so you all know what that means: time for an update on everyone's favourite cockamamie scheme, Operation Wealth Care.

Recently, my attempts to extract as much money as legally possible from the SU Health Care Plan have hit a brick wall. Specifically, the fact that \$10,000 is waiting for me in prescription drugs, and in order to take advantage of this, I'm going to have to savour the sorrow of countless prescription side-effects.

Now, I thought I was ready to bleed for this cause, but it's worse than that. This always happens when drugs are involved — they just want to make it better, but everything is made so, so much worse. It's like the old convention of

prescription infomercials where the rapid-fire droning of side effects often feels longer than the actual ad. The end result is that viewing audiences are often forced to watch five minutes of happy, smiling people healthily frolicking while an ominous voice makes announcements like "Warning: May cause stomach discomfort, temporary blindness, ankle gangrification, spontaneous pregnancies, Communist takeovers and/or untimely death. Consult a physician before watching this ad."

And it seems that drugs never have any good warnings, like "May cause all food to taste like chocolate," or "May cause unexpected four-hour orgasms." No, it's always side effects involving nausea or ulcers or aches and pains in places where pain is not a happy thing.

In fact, I should be happy — my peeling skin and depression are probably just the tip of the iceberg, since my coworkers have been happily and uncaringly bandying about urban prescription legends involving rapid hair loss and arm discolouration and other such horrible things that maybe probably likely won't happen to me. But they've still started calling dibs on my stuff should I unexpectedly croak. And they tell me to breathe easy for awhile, but I know they're waiting and watching me with their beady little eyes. Until I unexpectedly die or I kill them all, however, I'll be happy with the mild side effects I'm going through, and keep on pill-poppin' until the SU's coffers are run dry.

And speaking of dryness, I can tack on another \$100 for new contact lenses, since my old ones

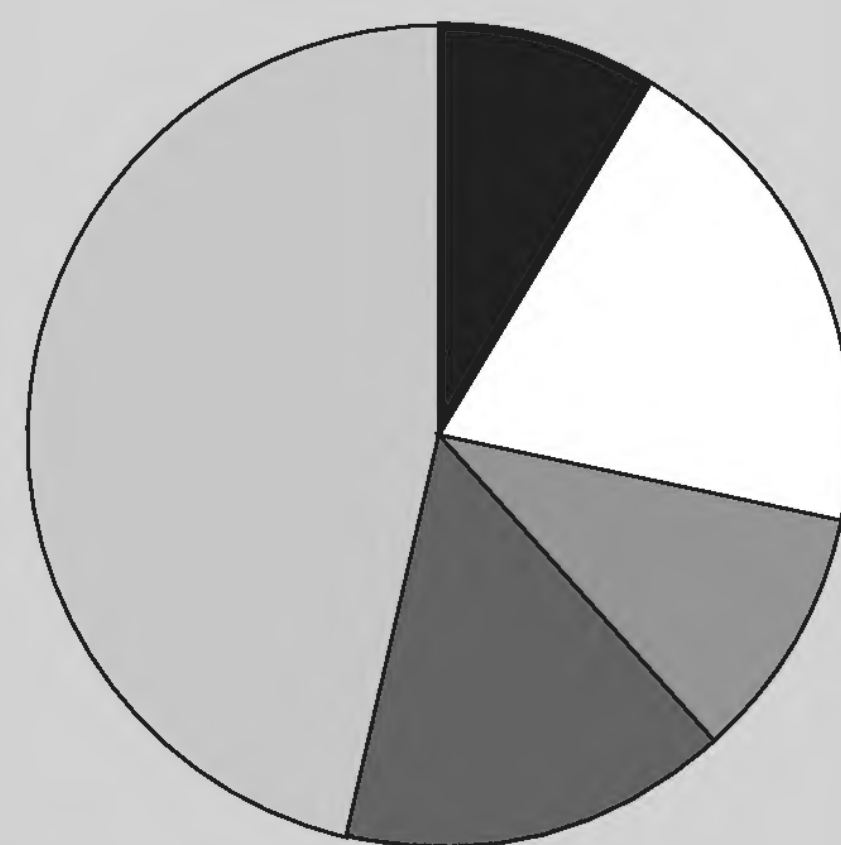
ripped in half while embedded in my eyeballs, which is an excellent example of a place where pain is not a happy thing. Probably because I didn't read the "May cause dry eyes and contact lens explosion" warning on last week's drugs.

Still, I've got a six-month supply, which is pretty odd given that I'm only provided with contact lenses every 24 months under the exact terminology of the plan. Perhaps I could try and classify my next set of lenses as actually being prescription drugs, although they'd probably get suspicious when the warning said "May cause improved vision" without any discernible downsides. That'd probably be a bit of a dead giveaway. Also, contact lenses wouldn't really taste very good.

So when everything is said and done, my current O:WC total is sitting pretty at \$363.14, which means I'm officially turning a profit, but I'm pretty confident I can do better. Unfortunately, I've exhausted a lot of the obvious payment options, so it's time for me to start searching for the more difficult-to-reach cash. As per normal, any ideas for illnesses I can contract, vaccinations I can receive, or highly expensive therapies I can undergo should be sent to david@gateway.ualberta.ca. And remember, don't be afraid to get creative! For instance, they're offering up to \$15,000 for accidental death and dismemberment. That might be a feasible option, although I'm going to have to look into how many people I'm going to have to accidentally dismember before they give me the check. Yup, looks like the rage has kicked in.

## readerpoll

"What do you believe should be the focus of the proposed Physical Activity and Wellness Centre?"



- Fitness facilities (I love working out) (46%)
- Meditation areas (I love zoning out) (15%)
- Academic space (I love geeking out) (10%)
- Social grounds (I love hanging out) (20%)
- Food courts (I love pigging out) (9%)

TOTAL RESPONSES: 91

### THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

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## social intercourse

### Big Bad Voodoo Daddy

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Arden Theatre (5 St. Anne St., St. Albert)  
\$53.50 at Ticketmaster

When Dire Straits sang about the “Sultans of Swing,” they must have been talking about this jiving group of guys. Due to a chronic disease called “No-coordination-itis,” I’ve never been able to fulfill my dreams of swinging the night away with a beautiful lady while sporting a sweet fedora. But maybe, just maybe, if you’re in attendance at the Arden on this night, you’ll spot this Hep Cat coming on like Gang Busters with a fine queen.

### Shuyler Jansen

With *Foam Lake* and *Eamon McGrath*  
Saturday, January 23 at 8 p.m.  
Haven Social Club (15120 Stony Plain Rd.)  
\$10 at the door

In a just world, Edmonton’s Old Reliable (Shuyler Jansen’s former band) would have ascended to the status of fellow alt-country legends Whiskeytown and Uncle Tupelo. While the aforementioned acts achieved notoriety after their implosions, Old Reliable have continued to live on in relative obscurity. But, in the alt-country sphere, Ryan Adams and Wilco have gone on to have successful careers in the wake of their former bands. The outlaw country of the Swiftys and the absolutely haunting melodies of former bandmate Mark Davis have rightfully garnered a lot of positive attention over the last few years. Now, Shuyler takes his moment to step out into the solo spotlight. My heart will always belong to Old Reliable, but until the reunion tour, I’ll take what I can get.

### Jane Austen and Zombies

A discussion on the novel *Pride and Prejudice* and *Zombies*  
Led by Alexander Carpenter  
Saturday, January 23 at 2 p.m.  
Stanley A. Milner Library  
(7 Sir Winston Churchill Sq.)

As any male English literature connoisseur knows, ladies love Jane Austen. In my first year of university, I was forced to endure both *Pride and Prejudice* and *Sense and Sensibility*, while sitting through multiple lectures on feminism. With an open mind, I approach each new novel as an interested reader, never knowing what I’m going to get — but I could never fully wrap my head around Austen. It always seemed to be lacking something, but I couldn’t quite figure out what that was. Then one day, while wandering the aisles of a bookstore, I happened upon a revision of the classic novel. On that day, I realized what her novel about love in England had been missing: zombies. Now I read the historical fiction novel with sheer delight. The latest rumour is that the author is working on a new novel, *Abraham Lincoln, Vampire Hunter*. With any luck, he will rid the world of that pasty-faced emo Edward Cullen.

### Giggles for Grad

With comedian *Paul Brown*  
Friday, January 22 at 7:30 p.m.  
Dinwoodie Lounge (SUB)  
\$15 at the door

The Education Students Association (ESA) is hosting a fundraiser starring local radio personality and comedian Paul Brown. The 100.3 “The Bear” DJ known for his antics on his morning radio show, is performing a show in SUB. Anyone who has travelled throughout the variety of buildings on campus will know that the Education building, despite the funky mural on the outside, is pretty depressing. It certainly lacks the beauty of Engineering or the culture of Arts, so take a night to help them out and have a few laughs. These are the people who will be in charge of babysitting and teaching your children one day. Thank them in advance.

DUSTIN BLUMHAGEN  
Edmonton’s Newspaper Sweetheart

# British Invasion legend Peter Asher plans night of music and stories in Edmonton



## musicpreview

### A Memoir of the '60s

Featuring *Peter Asher*  
Friday, January 22 at 8 p.m.  
Century Casino (1313 Fort Road N.W.)  
\$29.95–39.95 at Ticketmaster or Century Casino

SARAH STEAD  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

When it comes to being in the right place at the right time, Peter Asher may well be the luckiest man in music. In 1963, Asher met Gordon Waller, another student at Westminster School who also happened to own a guitar and sing. The two became fast friends and decided to start performing together, simply calling themselves Peter and Gordon.

“It was relatively less common then [to find other musicians at school],” says Asher. “[Gordon and I] both liked the Everly Brothers, so they were the point of confluence, I suppose [...] I was a bit of a snob at the time and not very keen on pop music. Gordon taught me the value of rock n’ roll.”

They started out modestly enough, playing local pubs and other small gigs during their lunch hour, but the turning point came when Asher’s younger sister Jane brought home a new boyfriend — some mop-top named Paul McCartney, who gave them an unused Beatles’ tune. The song, “World Without Love,” shot the pair to the top of the charts in the U.K. and across the pond, and solidified their position as British Invasion front-runners. This was the only group that McCartney would write a song for while the Beatles were still together.

The duo parted ways amicably in 1968 to pursue other careers, but Asher has stayed in the

business as a producer and talent manager until present. He’s currently working with an impressive roster of artists, including grunge rockers Everclear, the Webb Sisters, and Canadian bombshell Pamela Anderson.

“I’m in the studio producing a Buddy Holly tribute album for the 50th anniversary of his death,” he says of his current project. “For the last couple of days, I’ve been in the studio with Stevie Nicks doing a track with her.”

“The one thing that I don’t agree with is the theory that ‘Oh, they don’t write songs like *that* anymore,’ or that music is nowhere as good as it was [...] I hear things all the time that impress the hell out of me.”

PETER ASHER  
MUSICIAN/PRODUCER/MANAGER

Asher seems so nonchalant about recording with Nicks that he may as well be talking about picking up his dry cleaning, but it’s just another testament to how many music legends he knows on a first-name basis. After decades of managing and producing, however, Asher returned to the stage with his former musical partner Waller in 2005 for the first time in nearly 40 years. They continued to work and perform together for four more years before Waller died in July 2009.

“I don’t think we regretted the 38-year hiatus. We both had a pretty good time in the gap,” says Asher of his late friend. “Looking back now, of course, I’m glad we got back together when we did. We got to try it again and figure out that it still worked and people still liked it.

“He was one of those people who managed to

be extremely charming and clever at the same time as being grumpy and annoying. He was just one of those people that, even when you got really annoyed with him, you could never dislike him. He had a tremendous amount of charm and innate intelligence that overcame all [...] That memory will live forever, or at least as long as people can be bothered to play our music.”

After taking some time to grieve, Asher put together a multimedia show to honour Waller. Combining stories of the ‘60s, photographs, video, and live performances, the show will share some of Asher’s memories and give a nod to the man he shared the stage with so many times, and with whom he had remained lifelong friends.

“There are obviously going to be parts where Gordon will be sorely missed,” Asher sighs. “Gordon is irreplaceable and I want to make it very clear that we’re not trying to do that.”

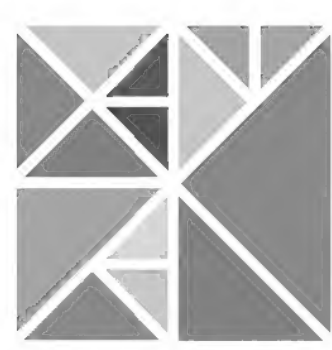
Currently the show is a one-off, scheduled for a single night in Edmonton only, but Asher is hoping that a positive response from the performance could lead to booking more shows down the road.

“I’ve put months of work into this and it’ll all be over after one night in freezing Edmonton,” he jokes.

Peter and Gordon’s music may have peaked in the 1960s, but like their British big brothers The Beatles, the influence has been long-lasting. Having seen the musical seasons change many times in his life, Asher turns his thoughts to the future of music and the business.

“The one thing that I don’t agree with is the theory that ‘Oh, they don’t write songs like *that* anymore,’ or that music is nowhere as good as it was. I think that’s a misperception. There is tons of good music. I hear things all the time that impress the hell out of me. The future of the music business is another question, and it’s clearly changing tremendously, but the importance of popular music in people’s lives and in our culture has never been greater — and this is the good news.”





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# Behemoth returns after border issues

## musicpreview

### Behemoth

*With Septic Flesh, Weapon, and Lightning Swords of Death*  
Friday, January 22 at 8 p.m.  
Starlite Room (10030-102 St.)  
\$20 at Ticketmaster

GABBY RICHES  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Behemoth is embarking on their first ever headlining tour in North America, and vocalist and lead guitarist Adam "Nergal" Darski is filled with nothing but extreme enthusiasm.

"The 'Evangelia Amerika' tour is a very historical moment for us," Nergal shares. "We have played six concerts so far, and each show has been sold out!"

Formed in 1991, this Polish blackened death metal band has played an important role in establishing their home country as having one of the best underground extreme metal scenes. Even with a two-decade history of tremendous intensity, the metal lifestyle is not without some obstructions.

"We've had some technical difficulties along the way in terms of the bus generator breaking down. It was freezing outside and we had to spend one night sleeping in the bus with no heat. We had to sleep with all our gear and jackets, hoping not to freeze to death," Nergal says.

Even menacing metal bands like Behemoth cannot withstand ominous North American winters. But besides a few chilly nights, Nergal promptly reassures me that the rest of the tour has been easy going, professional, exciting, and, perhaps surprisingly, hangover-free.



The band spent some time recording this past year, working very hard in the studio to release their ninth album *Evangelion* in 2009.

"*Evangelion* is Behemoth's strongest album, and I've never been happier touring with such a solid record. I'm finally at peace, and this album reflects how happy I am with myself and my work. It feels awesome."

Nergal continues with satisfaction in his voice, "There was a great vibe in the studio and the album has been greatly received. We've been in magazines and polls all across the world, indicating that our album is excellent."

Though Behemoth is primarily a death-metal outfit, what may be surprising about *Evangelion* to longtime fans of the band is the inclusion of a Killing Joke cover on the special addition.

"[Killing Joke] is probably one of the best, but most underrated punk bands out there. It was a real challenge to embark on such a non-metal cover, but performing Venom and Slayer covers

are too archetypal. I wanted fans to be surprised," explains Nergal.

Behemoth has toured with an overwhelming roster of distinguished metal bands such as Deicide, Nile, Napalm Death, and Dimmu Borgir. Even with an outstanding tour history, Nergal says that there are still a handful of bands that he'd like to share the stage with in the future.

"I would love to tour with Metallica, Rammstein, and Slipknot, because I look up to these bands and they're the best in what they do. I would then go for more underground bands such as Devil's Blood and Vesania."

Many Edmonton metal fans were outraged in 2009 when they realized that Behemoth didn't make it over the border for the Summer Slaughter Tour. Nergal quickly shares his apologies and sighs over the arduous process of clearing customs. Nevertheless, Canada maintains a very special place in the blackened death metal hearts of Behemoth.

"We did some crazy things in the past such as playing a 26-show tour just in Canada. We played at some of the biggest shit holes where there were only about 50 people in attendance. Yet, we still gained a lot of recognition and awesome feedback from the crowd," Nergal laughs.

Furthermore, Nergal assures fans in Edmonton that Behemoth is going to compensate for their unintentional 2009 absence by putting together an unforgettable metal experience that will defile morality and breed pestilence.

"There is going to be complete chaos accompanied with pure professionalism, intensity, and devotion. We're playing four songs from the new album, and featuring Behemoth rarities that will blow the minds of both old and new Behemoth fans."

# Comedic performances rock *Thunderstick*

## theatrereview

### Thunderstick

*Directed by Bradley Moss and Del Surjik*

*Starring Lorne Cardinal and Craig Lauzon*

Runs until January 31 at 8 p.m., 2 p.m. on Sundays, No show Mondays  
Roxy Theatre (10708-124 St.)  
\$13-27 at theatrenetwork.ca

DUSTIN BLUMHAGEN  
Arts & Entertainment Staff



While wandering through the lobby of the Roxy, passing by middle-aged women in dresses sipping wine and chatting with clean-cut middle-aged men in suits, I began to feel a high amount of anxiety building within my chest. In all honesty, it's been a few years since I've attended a play, and the first time it wasn't related to an attempt to impress a girl. As I left the building, I passed through a group of smokers congregated on the sidewalk and I overheard their conversation about the careers of the two actors in *Thunderstick*, suddenly recalling my conversation with Craig Lauzon last week. I reminded myself that he'd said it was a play guys could enjoy, so maybe I had nothing to worry about.

Shortly after I found my seat, the lights dimmed briefly. Faint groans came from the stage, where after a few moments of darkness, were found to be coming from a body lying next to a pile of empty beer bottles and Jack Daniels. From the moment of my first laugh, I completely let go of any reservations that I had about the show. Alternating between bouts of

laughter that had my sides hurting and powerful moments that had tears rolling down my face, *Thunderstick* surprised me at every turn.

The play was pushed as a comedy, and it surpassed all expectations in that regard. I honestly haven't laughed so hard in a long time. Rather, what caught me by surprise was the inclusion of serious content. Lauzon's character, Isaac, has returned from time spent overseas. When he took the time to speak of his experiences, it was a heart-wrenching moment. As we get to know Lorne Cardinal's character Jacob and understand the depths of his alcoholism, we feel sympathy. Interestingly, these starkly different characters are swapped between Lauzon and Cardinal each night, adding another dynamic to the play.

When subjects like child abuse, both physical and sexual, are approached, they're confronted with an honesty that made the audience visibly squirm in their seats in discomfort. The play was very well written, which made for an

interesting show. The audience was on an emotional roller-coaster ride, which could have easily led to disaster. Every time the laughter almost drowned out the actors, they would bring the audience back down with serious discussions.

The overall production of the show was wonderful. Set changes were executed quickly, with the characters keeping the audience laughing the whole time. The soundtrack was sparse and suited the situations perfectly. The hip-hop remix of a speech by Jean Chretien will forever play in my mind alongside images of Jacob vomiting on him. I enjoyed the show so much that I am going to go see it one more time on a night when the actors assume the opposite roles. The characters provided a hilarious show that managed to put forth more genuine passion than the hundred other cookie-cutter Shakespeare productions I have been forced to endure in the past. And like Lauzon suggested to me during our chat last week, maybe I'll bring a date.

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# Theo Bikel *fiddles* with tradition

## theatre review

### Fiddler on the Roof

Written by Joseph Stein

Music by Jerry Bock

Lyrics by Sheldon Harnick

Directed by Sammy Dallas Bayes

Starring Theodore Bikel

Runs until January 24 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Jubilee Auditorium (11455-87 Ave.)

\$71.20-102.25 at Ticketmaster

KIRSTEN GORUK

Arts & Entertainment Staff



Similar to the struggles of modern day, for the townspeople of Anatevka, life is difficult, and at times, precarious. You could say that their existence is like that of a fiddler on the roof — and yet in the face of life's uncertainty, they play on.

It's always a thrill when big-budget shows like *Fiddler on the Roof* make the trek up to Edmonton, and Broadway Across Canada's production doesn't disappoint. With an infectious amount of energy and songs that will stay stuck in your head for much longer than the car ride home, audience members were taken on a journey to 1905, where they witnessed the struggles of one particular Jewish family as they endeavour to survive in a hostile Russian environment.

Despite its historical setting, the musical remains relevant for today's audience, as the themes of tradition and inevitable change challenge each character to push the limits of their own lives, and the lives of those around them. It reminds us that even though the idea of breaking tradition is a frightening and unknown notion, at times, one must simply adapt and accept what life brings.

Broadway veteran Theodore Bikel

had the auditorium hooked from the moment he sang the first note of "Tradition." As Tevye, a now world famous milkman, Bikel brought out the most endearing qualities of the character — most notably Tevye's clever sense of humour and sharp wit. His physical presence on stage was constant as the audience hung on his every word and laughter emanated from the seats on an almost continual basis.

Along with his co-star Susan Cella — as Golde, the rigid, but fair, and ultimately affectionate wife and mother — the pair easily stole the show. Their interaction was the ideal mix of side-long glances, eye rolls, and imitations. And yet, despite their comical animosity, their duet, "Do You Love Me?" triumphed as one of the most touching moments of the musical.

Throughout the plot, an authentic feeling of community was strongly evoked, whether it was by watching the gentle and caring interaction of Tevye's five daughters, or witnessing the celebration of a wedding.

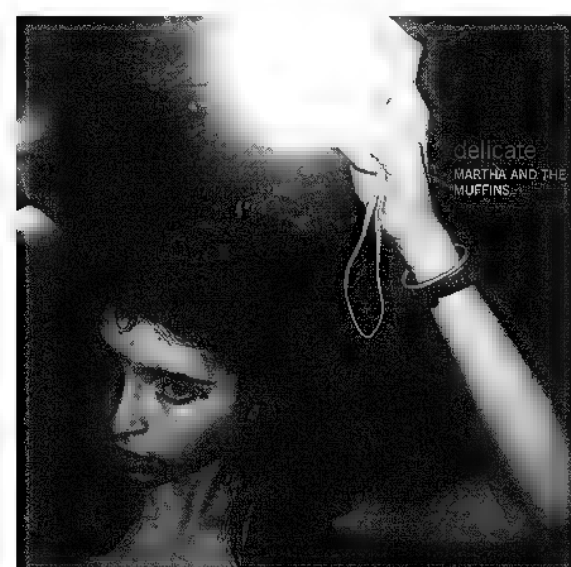
Scenic designer Steve Gilliam's choice to create houses, taverns, and businesses that were on a smaller scale created an intimate sense of place,

one that brought everyone, including the audience, closer together. It was the simple things, like realizing that the trees change from leafy green to bare grey from one act to the other, that not only warned of the challenges to come, but completed the overall atmosphere.

With the advent of a brilliantly written script, each cast member brought life, humour, anguish, and joy to the lines. Only in *Fiddler on the Roof* would you encounter an overtly religious milkman who still has the ability to joke lightly about his faith — at times, even in his prayers to the big guy upstairs.

The total length of the show runs just under three hours, which is not unusual for a Broadway musical. However, the show's uncanny energy and fervor seem to suspend time for those three hours.

A timeless soundtrack, combined with some cultural dance and the highest quality of acting, *Fiddler on the Roof* will make your eyes well up with tears as you witness both tender and heart-wrenching family moments that will also have you falling out of your seat with laughter seconds afterwards.



## album review

### Martha and the Muffins

Delicate

Muffin Music

MADELINE SMITH

Arts & Entertainment Staff

After brief forays into projects like children's music and soundtrack writing, Martha and the Muffins have finally returned to their new-wave roots. After forming in 1977, the band's popularity soared in the early '80s with the international hit "Echo Beach," but commercial success has since been elusive. The modern version of the band has been pared down to a duo, with

married couple Martha Johnson and Mark Gane — the only original members who still work in the music industry. The pair continued making music without their former bandmates for years after the band was essentially dismantled, but their new album marks the first time in 18 years they've recorded an album together.

*Delicate* is fiercely minimalistic in

almost every aspect of its execution. The songs are simple and straightforward, with very little variation in instrumentation or style. Even the album artwork has a do-it-yourself quality to it, featuring Johnson and Gane's 17-year-old daughter Eve taking a crooked photo of herself in the mirror.

Ultimately, this approach leaves *Delicate* feeling far too bland, making for an unsatisfying listening experience. The album isn't without its hidden gems: the stripped-down quality of the music works perfectly for the ballad "Life's Too Short to Long for Something Else." The following track "Don't Say Anything" sounds like a legitimate new-wave dance hit straight from the genre's heyday. The rest of the album, unfortunately, is utterly forgettable, providing little more than pleasantly unobtrusive background music.

they could while there is still time. Although very much a classic rock album in the style of the Replacements, there's diversity in the track list. "Lie to Me" is a darkly beautiful song that feels like a combination of Sigur Rós' "Hoppípolla" and the Weakerthans' "(Hospital Vespers)." Other songs don't pull this off quite as well — "Bad Comedian" comes off as poor mix of piano and electric guitar.

*You Should Have Killed Us When You Had The Chance* is not a grand Requiem Mass masterpiece, but the material's good enough to entertain its rock niche, if nothing else. You may have missed your chance to kill the Parkas, but luckily, you still have a chance to give them a listen.

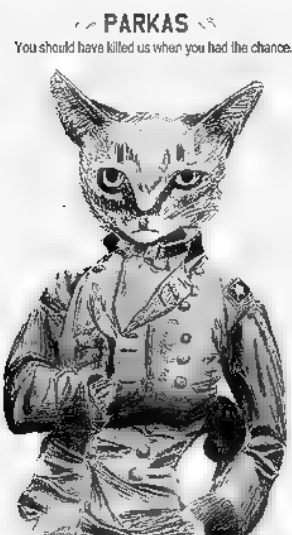
## album review

### Parkas

*You Should Have Killed Us When You Had the Chance*  
Saved by Radio

LANCE MUDRYK

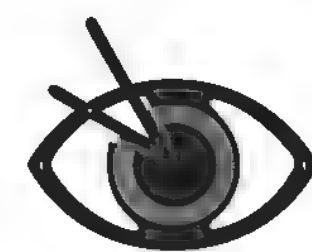
Arts & Entertainment Staff



On the inside of cover of the Parkas' third album, there are pictures from the band's final show. It's closing time for the Parkas, and with it comes songs of reflection and bittersweet endings. Although it may be a sombre affair for the band, being performers, they know their job is to entertain and not

to wallow in their own closure as they release one final album before disbanding. In some places, you can hear the desperation in the band's performance to keep the listener involved during these final songs.

To a certain extent, the album feels like they're trying to fit in everything



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# Faith meets survival in *Eli*

## filmreview

### The Book of Eli

Directed by Albert Hughes and Allen Hughes  
Starring Denzel Washington, Mila Kunis, and Gary Oldman  
Now Playing

DUSTIN BLUMHAGEN  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

In the beginning, Mel Gibson was Mad Max, and “the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep.” After that, it took 30 years for Hollywood to challenge the Road Warrior’s view of a post-Apocalyptic world. Shortly after the genre-shattering adaptation of Cormac McCarthy’s *The Road*, comes a second challenger to the throne. *The Book of Eli* casts Denzel Washington as the mysterious “Walker,” a man who is headed West with a rare book. Those who have not been blinded by the sunlight brought on by the war live in a desolate desert wasteland, where water is the most important resource.

**The film refrains from becoming overly preachy, but it doesn’t disguise where its faith is based.**

The sepia tones of the film provide the perfect setting for the dystopian western. While Clint Eastwood occupies his time these days making sappy sports movies, Denzel takes the ghost of the “Man With No Name” and injects it with fresh emotion. While travelling across the barren wasteland of America, he encounters a variety of characters. Entering a small dust-covered town, Walker meets his nemesis (played by an especially creepy Gary Oldman), who wants to steal his book. In the

tradition of the spaghetti western anti-hero, Walker wanders a dirty land on a mission, never looking for trouble, but always finding it. Oldman plays the part of the power hungry Carnegie, holding the small-town hostage with his group of mercenaries. He knows where the water is, and controls the townsfolk with this knowledge.

Denzel Washington rarely fails to bring a role to life, even in the lousiest movies (I’m looking at you, *Pelham 123*). This film is no exception; once again his acting is superb. Mila Kunis finally fills out a role that is suited to her skills, as the young woman Solara. Taking cues from the late Marilyn Monroe, she allows her natural beauty to shine on screen, while ignoring the limits of her acting ability.

Strong religious undertones radiate throughout this movie, which may be a turn-off for some. The film refrains from becoming overly preachy, but it doesn’t disguise where its faith is based. There may be the odd atheist who is deeply offended by a man with a holy book and a gun, cutting down swaths of non-believers; of course, there may also be more than a few Christians who are offended by this. But the main message of the movie is portrayed in a conversation between Solara and Walker. When asked about his faith, he tells her that it can be summed up by saying that a person should always try to do more for others than for themselves. Regardless of your opinion on religion, those words are something that everyone should aspire to live towards.

In the post-Apocalyptic world of Mad Max, people are fighting for survival and little more. They drive around in strange vehicles and kill for fuel. *The Book of Eli* takes a step away from the simplistic views of that style of action thriller, instead offering up a fresh perspective. Instead of making a hollow action film, full of gunfire and murder, the directors focus on the shred of humanity left in the world, embodied by the faithful Walker. A dystopian science fiction/western based upon religion may seem like a disastrous undertaking, but the entire crew manages to successfully pull it off.

# Wild Tangerine tops in Asian fusion

## diningreview

### Wild Tangerine

10383-112 St.  
M-T: 11:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.  
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Sat: 5 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

MICHAEL O’NEILL  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Four years ago, a good friend and I promised each other that we would go to *Wild Tangerine* for dinner, but circumstances and lame excuses kept getting in the way. This week, however, after receiving a gift card for the Original Fare Association of Independent Restaurants (of which *Wild Tangerine* is a member), the excuses ran out, and we readied ourselves for an excursion into the world of Asian Fusion.

After trudging through the slush for several blocks from Corona LRT station, we were greeted by a pleasantly decorated, but empty restaurant. Immediately after being seated by a friendly hostess-cum-waitress, a wine bottle modified to serve as a pitcher was placed before us, and our drink orders were taken. My partner and I went with the Tuscan Tomato (their version of a Caesar, \$8). Both were excellent, although one could scarcely taste the vodka, which I was looking forward to as a warming agent.

For appetizers, we ordered the lollipop shrimp with wasabi yogurt (three lollies for \$9). It was immediately after taking my first bite through the crispy coating, when the flavour of the shrimp melded perfectly with wasabi, that I realised just how foolish I’d been to put off this meal for so long.

The pleasant experience continued through into the entrees, where the Five-Peppercorn crusted Yellow-Fin Tuna with Organic Hemp Oil-Tomato Coulis (\$19) caught my eye. My companion ordered Judy’s famous Thai Green



AARON YEO

Curry with Prawns and Tortiglioni (\$20). Both proved to be thoroughly satisfying choices. The tuna was seared and served on a bed of bok choy, one of the more original seasonal vegetables I have seen in Edmonton. Having only had tuna out of a can, this was a pleasant change. Asian fusion was exemplified in my companion’s dish, a quite spicy stir-fry served upon Italian pasta, rather than the traditional rice or noodles.

After such delicious entrees, neither of us could say no to taking a look at the desert menu. Although more exotic creations such as Fortune Cookies with Pistachio, longnan, chocolate, and lime (served with ginger-cardamom steamed milk) were offered, my companion and I settled on the warm Gingered Bread Pudding with banana ice cream (\$7). The bread pudding arrived artfully presented, with a single blackberry and wedge of candied orange on top of a small mound of whipped cream. The ginger and banana flavours proved to be a perfect pair, with a burnt sugar crust on the pudding adding a bit of crunch.

After this memorable and delicious meal, I’d recommend visiting *Wild Tangerine* on January 21 or between the 24th to 28th, when they will be participating in Original Fare’s Fork Fest. You’ll be able to get a multi-course meal for \$25 — a steal if there ever was one.

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## Week 2: The Freshman 15



**This week Team Freshman 15 is sharing  
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**Check out their progress at:**  
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THOMAS THE  
CLOCKWORK  
FINCH SAYS:

Best of luck to  
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Canadian University Press  
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in Montreal!



## V-Ball Pandas set to host Herd with second place up for grabs

NATHAN LIEWICKI  
Sports Staff

The number-four Pandas volleyball squad will be back in action in the Main Gym for their first home conference matchup in 76 days when they take on the second-ranked Manitoba Bisons (11-2) in a pair of key matches this Friday and Saturday.

At 11-3, the Pandas currently sit third in the conference, but are only a half-game back of Manitoba for second, and therefore, it's clear that this weekend's contests with the Bisons are important for playoff positioning.

Along with this weekend's tough matchup with Manitoba, two games against top-ranked UBC in February still remain on the schedule for the Pandas.

"I think the schedule maker did us a favour with giving us a tougher second half. It's good preparation for us as we prepare for the playoffs," head coach Laurie Eisler asserted.

Manitoba heads into the clash with the Pandas riding a nine-match winning streak, as well as an impressive 8-1 road record.

Led by a trio of offensive weapons who all rank in the top-10 in hitting percentage in Canada West — Kristi Hunter, Ashley Voth, and Tricia Mayba — the Herd will present the Pandas with their stiffest test of the season.

Undoubtedly, however, the Pandas will be up to the challenge of suppressing Manitoba's vaunted front court come Friday evening. Eisler's team ranks second in the conference in blocking, and that skill set will need to be on full display against Manitoba.

"Offensively, [Manitoba] is just loaded with talent and that's something we need to be concerned about. Along with our service game, our

blocking has formed the foundation of our team and it will be a deciding factor this weekend," Eisler said.

The Pandas rank first in Canada West, averaging over two service aces per game and if they're able to serve as they have been all season, the Manitoba setters and attackers will likely have limited options.

A huge part of Alberta's effective service game is attributable to the play of fourth-year Physical Education student Tiffany Proudfoot. She leads Canada West in aces (110), kills (201), and points per game (4.50).

"Tiff has played amazing for us this year, but she's not the only player who has been clutch. Lately our middle has started to emerge as more of a threat, and Krista Zubick's latest transformation to the right side has been key for us offensively and defensively," Eisler explained.

To those not entirely knowledgeable in the volleyball community, the fact that the Pandas have played 53 sets to this point in the season might give rise to concerns about fatigue. Nevertheless, coach Eisler believes her team is fit as can be.

"Having a bye last week gave us an opportunity to boost our physical training, which is sometimes a neglected aspect of volleyball in the second half of the season," Eisler noted.

In two prior meetings this season during the pre season back in September, Eisler and her squad handed the Bisons a pair of losses, with 3-2 and 3-0 victories respectively.

Number-two Manitoba waltzes into the Main Gym to battle number-four Alberta this weekend with second-place in the conference on the line.

Action gets underway Friday night, with action getting underway at 6:30 p.m., while Saturday's tilt starts at 8 p.m.



FILE PHOTO: PETE YEE

**SPIKING INTO SECOND** Alberta sits only a half game behind the Bisons in the conference standings and can leapfrog the Herd with a pair of victories this weekend in a critical two-game series.

## Manitoba thunders into town for two games against Volley-Bears

MATT HIRJI  
Sports Writer

The Bears volleyball team will open court this weekend with a pair of games against the lowly Manitoba Bisons in a pair of games.

Team spirits are high for the volleyball Bears, who are coming off a couple of wins against Trinity Western nearly two weeks ago.

"In the first games [of the new year], I think that there were parts of our game that really showed improvement. In particular, things that we've been working on like our blocking defence combination. I think in those matches, we controlled the ball defensively, and that was a good thing," head coach Terry Danyluk explained.

The Bears, who had a bye this past weekend, are eager to face the intensity that is inherent during final part of the season, beginning this weekend against the Bisons.

"I think the big thing is that we saw some improvement in our first games of the year and my hope is that the guys will realize that if we keep putting the work in, we'll be successful,"

Danyluk noted.

While only sitting at 5-6 on the season, Manitoba is in the thick of things in the Canada West standings, clinging to the seventh and final play-off spot.

**"Consistency is a key factor. The nature of our game demands it."**

**TERRY DANYLUK**  
HEAD COACH BEARS VOLLEYBALL

"Manitoba is a traditional powerhouse school in our conference. They are a well-coached team and a team that has already beat some [highly ranked] teams this year. We have to be prepared for them."

While the Bears are among the conference's elite so far this season, consistency remains Alberta's biggest area of concern and in the final matches of the season, Danyluk's squad will be looking for consistent effort and focus.

"Consistency is a key factor. The nature of our game demands it. People

call it a rebound sport because the only time that you have control of the ball is when you're serving — the rest of the time it's crucial to be consistent. That involves serving well, passing well, and cutting down of your errors when you are hitting," Danyluk explained.

In an attempt to encourage his players to be more consistent when they step on the court, Danyluk has stressed the importance of effort and improvement during practices.

"We have been working on lots of parts of our game. There are still some times where we have had lapses in our side-out game, which is something that is really important for us, so we have really focused on that."

"I hope the guys are hungry to play. We haven't played in a while and we really worked well as a unit against Trinity Western. There's only three weeks left in the season, so my hope is that the guys are focused and really want to come out and play well this weekend."

The rejuvenated Volley-Bears play host to the Bisons at the Main Gym this Friday at 8 p.m. and at 6:30 p.m. Saturday.



AARON YEO

**SETTING IT UP** The Bears will be looking to sure up their consistency at home this weekend as they welcome the Bisons who are suffering through another down year.

**WEEKEND  
START  
TIMES**

### PANDAS VOLLEYBALL

**FRI. JAN 22**  
6:30 p.m., Main Gym



VS.

**SAT. JAN 23**  
8 p.m., Main Gym



### BEARS VOLLEYBALL

**FRI. JAN 22**  
8 p.m., Main Gym



VS.

**SAT. JAN 23**  
6:30 p.m., Main Gym



### PANDAS HOCKEY

**FRI. JAN. 22 / SAT. JAN 23**  
7 p.m., Clare Drake Arena



VS.







PETE YEE

# Puck Pandas look to rebound at home

Coming off their first loss of the season, Alberta returns home to face Saskatchewan

EMERSON CSORBA  
Sports Staff

Coming off their first loss of the season, the number-three ranked Pandas hockey team will have to regroup quickly as number-ten ranked Saskatchewan ventures to town this weekend for a pair of games at Clare Drake Arena.

Although no longer perfect on the campaign, the Pandas hold a comfortable 10-point lead on second-place Manitoba, and an 11-point lead on visiting Saskatchewan in the Canada West standings with six regular season games remaining.

The Pandas, however, will have their hands full with a Huskies team that played Alberta in two tight games back in October, as Alberta secured a pair of one goal wins, including a 3–2 overtime victory.

For Pandas head coach Howie Draper, the weekend tilts will reflect his team's grit.

"With the loss [against UBC], there are opportunities to learn and improve. I felt that the game we played was a good game overall, probably the best game up to this point in the season. I was happy with our effort. We just need to give a little extra when we create chances," Draper explained.

Saskatchewan comes into Clare Drake on a four-game winning streak, having trounced the fourth-ranked Manitoba Bisons 6–1 and 3–2 last weekend. Breanne George and Danny Stone, meanwhile, are each on a torrid scoring pace. In the two games against Manitoba, George netted four goals along with two helpers, while Stone

who has 20 points on the season, will be a primary focus for the Pandas.

"They're all gifted goal scorers who also play well physically. George is tough and rugged, and is really the embodiment of that team. They have many players that can score goals, so they're going to be a tough opponent."

Goalie Dana Vinge will need to once again stand tall for the Pandas. In 17 games played this year, Vinge has posted a spiffy 0.82 goals against average along with six shutouts. Yet, she has faced 120 shots less than her Saskatchewan counterpart in the crease, Vanessa Frederick.

The Pandas will also have to improve the quality of their shots; in the recent 2–0 loss to UBC, Alberta was unable to capitalize on 39 shots.

For the Pandas, who have been no strangers to success this season, seeing how they bounce back from a loss will be new territory.

"We're going to have to do our best to nip [Saskatchewan] in the bud. Doing the math, we need to win four games out of the next six to clinch first place."

The Pandas look to rebound from their first loss of the season last weekend as they start the final push to clinch first-place Friday night and continues Saturday against UBC, with both starts going at 7 p.m. at Clare Drake Arena.

**"George is tough and rugged, and is really the embodiment of that team. They have many players that can score goals, so they're going to be a tough opponent."**

HOWIE DRAPER  
HEAD COACH PANDAS HOCKEY

added two goals and three assists.

On the season, George sits just four points behind the Pandas' Tarin Podloski in the Canada West scoring race. Both the Pandas and Huskies boast four players apiece in the Canada West top-ten scoring standings.

Neutralizing the Saskatchewan trio of George, Stone, and Julie Paetsch,

Canada West Standings					
	G	W	L	OL	Pts.
Alberta	18	17	1	0	34
Manitoba	16	12	4	0	24
Sask.	16	10	3	3	23
Regina	16	5	6	5	15
UBC	16	6	9	1	13
Letn.	14	3	9	2	8
Calgary	12	3	8	1	7

Canada West Leading Scorers				
	G	A	Pts.	
AB: PODLOSKI, Tarin	16	15	31	
SK: GEORGE, Breanne	15	12	27	
AB: COPELAND, Lean	9	18	27	

Canada West Leading Goaltenders			
	GAA	SV%	
AB: VINGE, Dana	0.82	.948	
SK: FREDERICK, Vanessa	1.76	.933	
MB: CORFIELD, Stacey	1.94	.917	

TALE OF THE TAPE			
			
10–3–3 (23 points, 3rd in Canada West)	Record (W–L–OTL)	17–1–0 (34 points, 1st in Canada West)	
+25 (55 for, 30 against)	Goal Differential	+58 (73 for, 15 against)	
Breanne George (15–12–27) Julie Paetsch (7–13–20) Danny Stone (9–10–19)	Leading Scorers (G–A–PTS)	Tarin Podloski (16–15–31) Lean Cope and (9–18–27) Saran Hirschworth (8–9–17)	
PP – 25%, 2nd in CW PK – 87.1%, 2nd in CW	Specialty Team Stats	PP – 22.9%, 3rd in CW PK – 91.5%, 1st in CW	
Steve Kook (3rd year)	Head Coach	Howie Draper (13th year)	
Vanessa Frederick (15GP, 9–4–2, 2 SO)	Starting Goaltenders	Dana Vinge (17 GP, 16–1–0, 0 SO)	

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Thursday, 28 January, 2010 at 5pm in Room 3-06,  
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**TENTATIVE AGENDA:**

Introductory remarks • Approval of 2008-2009 GSJS Audit  
(Allen & Associates) • Announcements • Refreshments

All members (i.e., those with five or more Gateway contributions in the 365 days prior to 28 January and who have registered for membership with a Gateway editor) are asked to attend. If you have made five or more contributions to the Gateway in the 365 days prior to 28 January and would like to become a member, please contact the Editor-in-Chief at [eic@gateway.ualberta.ca](mailto:eic@gateway.ualberta.ca). This meeting is also open to the public.

For more information, please contact Gateway Business Manager  
Asia Szkudlarek at [biz@gateway.ualberta.ca](mailto:biz@gateway.ualberta.ca)  
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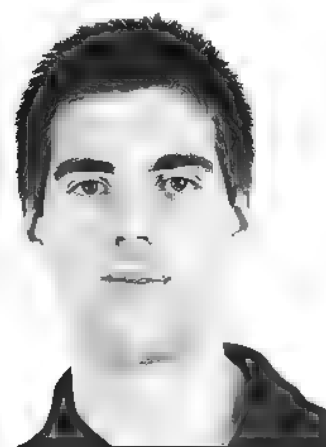
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## Cormier's high elbow new low for headshots

Patrice Cormier's dirty tactics should be punished with a lengthy suspension



EVAN  
DAUM

Sports  
Commentary

For those looking for an example of what is wrong with the game of hockey, one need look no further than Rouyn-Noranda Huskies forward Patrice Cormier's brutal elbow on Quebec Remparts defenceman Mikael Tam. In one fell swoop with a vicious elbow, Cormier has become the latest illustration of idiocy on the ice.

When Cormier laid out the unsuspecting Tam in a game between the Huskies and Remparts earlier this week, the blueliner was left convulsing on the ice, only to be removed on a stretcher and taken to a local hospital. The incident swiftly brought the spotlight of sporting stupidity in this country upon not only Cormier, but also the game as a whole.

Cormier, who captained Canada's World Junior squad last month, is no stranger to playing on the proverbial edge when it comes skating on the thin line between gritty, agitating hockey and being an on-ice outlaw. For most of Cormier's junior career, he's been able to successfully tread the line, having only been suspended once back in 2008 for a pair of games — but now the New Jersey Devils draft choice finds himself on the verge of hockey exile for an extended period.

Yet again, the issue with head shots

has been opened wide for all to examine. There's no question that Cormier was going for the knockout blow when he saw Tam in the trolley tracks going across the middle of the ice, and if Cormier had bodychecked Tam with his shoulder, there would be no story here. But Cormier didn't just lay a punishing body check on Tam; instead, he threw a cowardly elbow to the head, launching a nearly bulletproof piece of plastic into Tam's head.

**What's wrong with the  
game is a handful of  
players like Cormier  
who think they're  
invincible and could  
care less about the  
consequences — not  
some overarching  
mentality with hockey  
players or the rules  
they play by.**

Much like the hit that landed Erie Otters forward Michael Liambas in hockey abyss earlier this season, Cormier's hit is a case-in-point for the lack of respect a select few show for their opposition on the ice. By no means am I advocating a soft brand of hockey, but the last time I checked, dropping the gloves and squaring off with someone in a fight is far more exciting — not to mention honourable — than blindsiding an unsuspecting

player with an elbow to the head.

In the coming days or weeks, we'll all hear how sorry Cormier is for the hit, and that it was out of character, but in reality, it's simply the culmination of an upward trend in Cormier's careless style of play. He may very well be sorry for what happened, but that won't erase the consequences.

Thanks to the marvels of television, I've gotten enough of a taste of the tenacious forward to know that he's probably lucky that the results haven't been this bad before. He's taken liberties on players in the last two WJHC, and luckily for those players, they came out of their encounters with Cormier mostly unscathed.

While this latest hit to the head is sure to ignite that debate again, what's wrong with the game isn't the rules. Anyone who needs a rule to know that you don't jump off the bench and line up an opposing player with an elbow to the back of the head, shouldn't be playing the game. What's wrong with the game is a handful of players like Cormier who think they're invincible, and could care less about the consequences — not some overarching mentality with hockey players, or the rules they play by.

The full extent of Cormier's suspension is still to be decided, but if the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League really wants to send a message, the only thing Cormier should be lacing up for the rest of the season are a pair of sneakers and not skates. Unfortunately for Cormier, the best thing that can come of this is an end to his season — and while that may be harsh, it's the only answer.

## sportssshorts

Compiled by **Matt Pretty  
and Evan Daum**

### Bears Hockey

The Yellowhead Battle takes centre stage in Canada West men's hockey this weekend as the number-two ranked Golden Bears (16-1-1) head east to face the Saskatchewan Huskies (10-7-1) for a pair of games in Saskatoon.

Alberta beat the Huskies 6-4 and 4-1 in their two previous meetings at Clare Drake this season, and now the Bears will look to sweep the season series. The Alberta-Saskatchewan rivalry has lost some of its lustre this year as the Huskies haven't lived up to their preseason hype, but the Dogs will be hungry this weekend as a win or two would put them right back into the thick of the playoff race for second spot.

Meanwhile, the Bears have reeled off 11 straight conference wins, and Chad Klassen, Eric Hunter, and Derek Ryan occupy the top-three in Canada West scoring.

Faceoff on both Friday and Saturday will be at 6 p.m. The game can be heard live at [www.bears.ualberta.ca](http://www.bears.ualberta.ca) both nights.

### Swimming

Alberta's swimmers take to the pool this weekend in Lethbridge for the conference championships starting tomorrow morning in the Chinook City.

After hosting swim clubs from around Western Canada last weekend in the annual Senior Swim Meet, the Green and Gold will be heading to the Canada West Championships looking to improve on last year's third-place finishes in both the men's and women's team standings.



PETEYEE

The Bears and Pandas hit the pool this weekend for three days of water works beginning tomorrow at 11 a.m.

### Pandas Basketball

The Hoop Pandas (9-5) swept the Calgary Dinos on the road last week and will look to do the same this weekend against two lower-ranked B.C. squads. Abbotsford is the site for Friday night's game against the lowly Fraser Valley Cascades (1-10) at 7 p.m. Cascade Jane Meadwell is one of the lone bright spots for UFV, as she leads Canada West with 20.1 points per game.

On Saturday, the Pandas face the Thompson Rivers WolfPack (3-9) at 7 p.m. The Pandas must also keep their effort up on the offensive glass — Alberta pulls down an average of 17.2 offensive boards per game, best in the conference, and must convert on more of them to boost their scoring offence, which only sits at eighth in Canada West.

Saturday night's tilt is available on video webcast at <http://showtcast.tru.ca:8000/index.html>.

### Bears Basketball

After a gutsy comeback split in Calgary last weekend, the basketball Bears (6-8) stay on the road, travelling to the B.C. Interior this weekend. Friday night's matchup is set for 9 p.m. at Fraser Valley (6-6), where Zeon Gray (15.3 points per game) will lead the Cascades against Jordan Baker (13.2 points, 7.9 rebounds per game) and the Bears.

Saturday night, Alberta is up against the Thompson Rivers WolfPack (2-10), who field one of the best big men in Canada West in Greg Stewart (16.5 points, 11.9 boards, 2.8 blocked shots per game).

The TRU match from Kamloops also tips off at 9 p.m., and a video webcast is available at <http://showtcast.tru.ca:8000/index.html>.



# Pigskin pick 'em: The Gateway breaks down the NFL's final four

SPORTS  
STAFFGroup  
Commentary

With the only four NFL teams left vying for football supremacy, it's time for our astute panel of pigskin pundits to make a case for each of the remaining squads. Here's a look at the reasons why each team will be the one hoisting the Lombardi Trophy at season's end.

## Nathan Liewicki

The New Orleans Saints have marched their way back into the NFC Championship Game for the first time since 2007 when they were mauled by the Chicago Bears 39-14 on a cold, snowy night.

This Sunday, however, the Saints will play the conference title game in front of their boisterous home crowd on the Bayou, led by quarterback Drew Brees.

Named to his fourth Pro Bowl this season, Brees leads a Saints offence that's as explosive as any in NFL history, with the ability to score from anywhere on the field. New Orleans' offensive success is largely attributable to completing 45 per cent of their third-down conversions.

Also, during the regular season, New Orleans led the league by accumulating an average of 403.8 yards per game and scoring 31.9 points per game, and that offensive

firepower was on full display in their 45-14 thumping of the defending NFC Champion Arizona Cardinals last Sunday.

Neither the Colts, Jets, nor the Vikings have enough of a balanced offence to keep up with the Saints, and thus I envision them capturing the franchise's first Super Bowl come February 7.

## Evan Daum

Stats are terrific and all, but when it comes down to a two-game scenario, your stats page is about as useful as a screen door on a submarine. The Minnesota Vikings aren't just going to take down the Saints in the City of the Rising Sun, but they're also going to bring home the Lombardi Trophy come February.

Now I know there's a lot of Brett Favre haters out there considering the fact the guy is a wishy-washy, Wrangler-jeans-wearing diva at times, but that doesn't take away from the fact that he's Mr. Clutch when it comes to crunch time.

Not only is Favre a grizzled playoff veteran with a Super Bowl ring to his credit, but he also has Adrian Peterson, who at any given moment can single-handedly run over the defence en route to a score.

While I could go to the well with a bunch of stats, I will instead go with my gut, which says that not only will the Vikings win the Super Bowl, but also that Brett Favre will retire (for the 2,439th time) as Super Bowl MVP, riding off into the sunset where he will remain for two-three months before coming back in a bizarre twist to suit up for the Toronto Argonauts after Labour Day.

## Bren Cargill

The first and biggest reason why the Colts will go all the way is that they have the best quarterback in the sport on their roster with Peyton Manning barking out audibles from behind centre. Manning is reason alone to believe that the Lombardi Trophy will come back to Indy.

He has so many playmakers with running backs Joseph Addai and Donald Brown, wide receivers Austin Collie, Pierre Garçon, and all-pro Reggie Wayne, not to mention that tight-end Dallas Clark is arguably the best in the game.

The offensive line, led by Jeff Saturday, is one of the most solid in the league. The offense has consistently been one of the best in the league for years, but the team goes beyond that. The defence has also been a strength all season.

The elite pass rushing duo of Robert Mathis and Dwight Freeney would strike fear into any quarterback. The Colts are much stronger up the middle against the run than they used to be, with a very strong defensive tackle rotation, and Gary Brackett at middle linebacker.

The underrated Antoine Bethea has held an injury-depleted secondary together. I don't see any remaining team with the

same depth as the Colts; therefore, the Colts are going to be your 2010 Super Bowl Champions.

## Nick Frost

Though I don't consider myself to be any kind of modern-day Nostradamus, I do occasionally make bold sports predictions and boast about them when I'm right. That's why, despite all critical analysis, I'm picking the New York Jets to win this year's AFC Championship game and, eventually, this year's Super Bowl.

Let me set the scene for you: it's Sunday, January 24. Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis. New York's biggest test of the season. Under the retractable roof, the heavily-favoured hometown Colts get set to take the field against the underdog Jets, led by rookie quarterback Mark Sanchez. Indy wins the coin toss, and they choose to receive.

As the players line up for the first snap of the game, the tension mounts. Suddenly, centre Jeff Saturday snaps the ball back to Peyton Manning. A wall of green begins rapidly advancing on the veteran pivot, as the Jets defence launches a full-force blitz. Suddenly, three 250-plus lb. men simultaneously pile on top of Manning, causing his right leg to snap in half and bend awkwardly underneath him.

With no choice but to replace Manning, the Colts throw rookie QB Curtis Painter to the wolves, and the Jets go on to blow out the Colts 94-3, with Sanchez earning several NFL records in the process.

Of course, the Jets won't have won it all just yet — they'll still have to play in the Super Bowl against either New Orleans or Minnesota. As long as their respective pivots Drew Brees and Brett Favre suffer broken legs from the Jets' defensive line, though, New York will have absolutely no problem blowing out those two rather questionable opponents. And that, my friends, is why the New York Jets will beat — nay, destroy their opposition in the Super Bowl.

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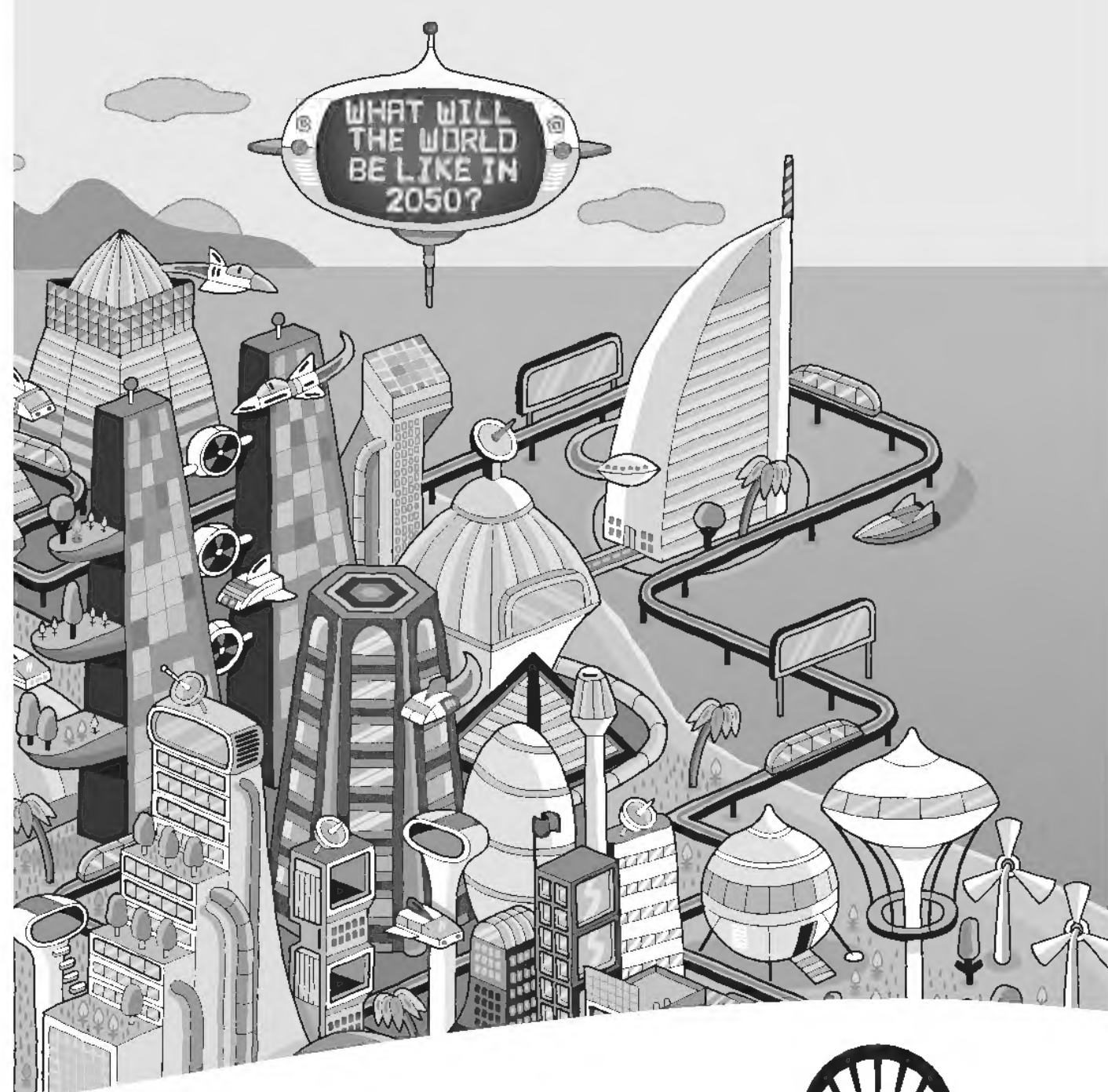
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Whatever new technology the future holds, we'll need plenty of energy to power it. At Shell we're working on all sorts of ideas to meet the growing demand. And we need ambitious students to help us tackle the challenge. Join a company that values diversity, and gives you training, support and career choices to develop your potential. Surround yourself with some of our most accomplished problem solvers. And together we can help build a responsible energy future.

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## BY THE NUMBERS

54

Number of interceptions thrown this season combined among the remaining four teams starting quarterbacks

5

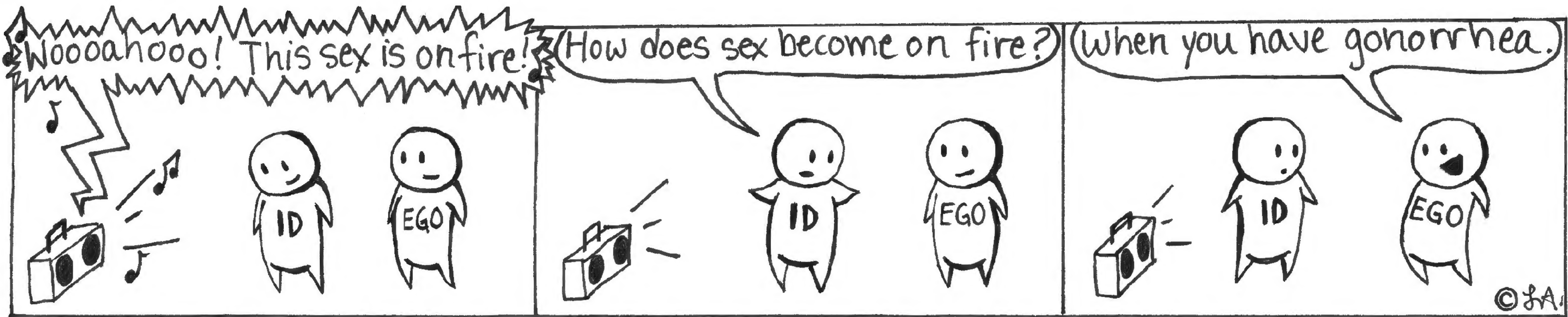
Number of games the New Orleans Saints have scored 45+ points this season, including a 45 point playoff performance last week against Arizona.

3

Number of sacks the Vikings Ray Edwards has recorded during the post-season. Edwards is tied for the playoff lead with Dallas Cowboy DeMarcus Ware.



ID & EGO by Lauren Alston



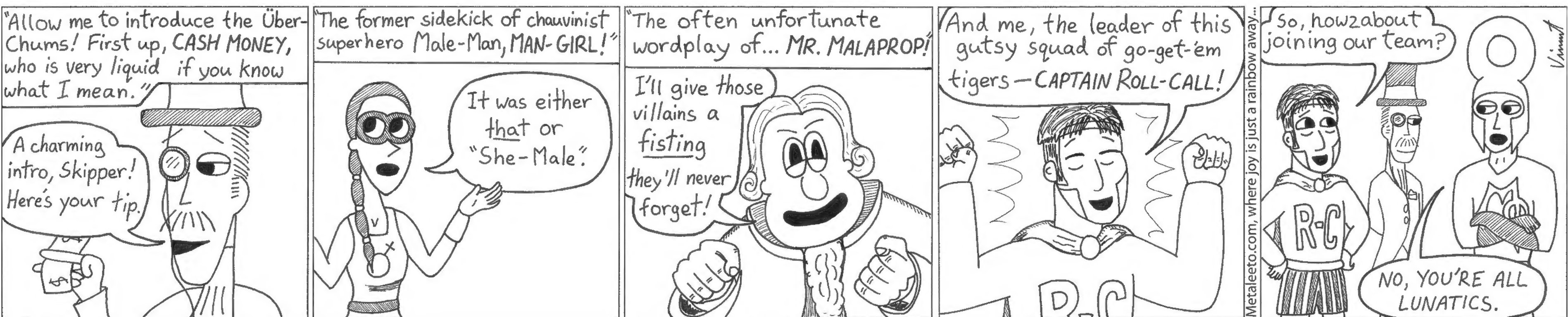
PEOPLE WATCHING by Faye Campbell



THE RESTLESS WICKED by Marie Gojmerac



METALEETO by Ross Vincent



SCRIBBLE MONSTER by Eric Chiang



BLACK RAINBOW by Jeff Cheng







**LIGHT RAIL** From the rear side looking outwards, the guiding lights that surround the tracks blur as the last train of the night crosses over the North Saskatchewan River. One of the 52 reasons to love Edmonton.

### astronowatch

by Kati Kovacs

I've never been a video game person, except for Russia's greatest export, *Tetris*. However, *Rock Band* is very addictive. Through careful practice, I've raised my guitar score from 23 per cent (shameful!) to 92! Maybe one day I'll hit 100 — on easy, of course. I can't wait to get the metal pack. It's what's on the agenda for this weekend!

An old sunspot on the sun is gearing back up into action and sending copious ionized particles our way. This will have little effect on the Earth, except for raising the possibility of seeing aurora borealis (northern lights). If it clears up anytime soon, you might want to pop outside late in the evening and check the northern sky for dancing and twisting ribbons of green light. That's the interaction of the Sun's ionized particles against our atmosphere.

While you're outside take a look to the eastern sky to see the planet Mars. It'll be the bright reddish object near the constellation of Leo. Don't know how to find Leo? Well, come on down to the FABservatory at 7 p.m. tonight (if it's clear) and someone will show you how!

*AstronoWatch is a weekly feature that covers the goings-on in the night skies, the galaxy, and sometimes even Kati's personal life. Keep up with Astronowatch online at [thegatewayonline.ca/astronowatch](http://thegatewayonline.ca/astronowatch) or check out the FABservatory's site at [www.phys.ualberta.ca/observatory](http://www.phys.ualberta.ca/observatory)*

		8			7		6	
9								1
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## CLASSIFIEDS

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1 of 2 bdrms main flr of house 4 rent immediately. 11571 University ave. \$650/month 780-239-3930 [jln8@ualberta.ca](mailto:jln8@ualberta.ca)

### SERVICES

Need help preparing for the DAT? Our next course is Jan. 23/24! [www.rockthedat.com](http://www.rockthedat.com)

### VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Right Left Repeat. Run a 1/2 or full Marathon. Raise funds. Help give the boot to blood cancer. [www.teamintraining.ca/ab](http://www.teamintraining.ca/ab)

# HAIR OF THE DOG

**BIG ROCK PRESENTS  
HAIR OF THE DOG LIVE**

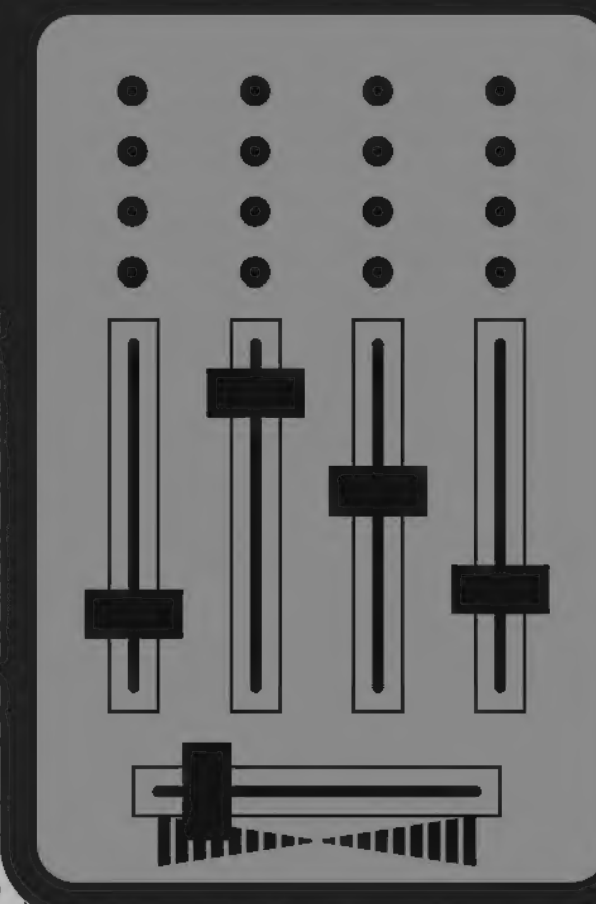
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